MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 DECEMBER 1982

Inter-Arab Affairs

Members of the Arab League delegation left Beijing following talks held to explain the Fes summit plan, XINHUA reported. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stated that the delegation achieved "extremely positive" results during its visit to the PRC, Riyadh radio reported citing remarks the minister made to the Pakistani news agency. However, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam told Damascus radio that although the delegation will meet soon to assess the results of its contacts and to submit a detailed report to the Arab countries, the group's contacts yielded no new developments and there is no reason to call for an Arab summit.

Jordan

King Husayn, the leader of the Arab delegation visiting China, began an official visit to China on 7 December at the invitation of the National People's Congress and the Chinese Government, XINHUA reported. The Chinese Government marked the start of this portion of the Jordanian monarch's visit with a ceremony attended by PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang and high-ranking representatives of the PRC Government, XINHUA noted. The two leaders held talks during the day and met again at a banquet hosted by the PRC premier, according to XINHUA reports. At the banquet, Zhao Ziyang affirmed that he and Husayn had reached a "convergence of views" on Middle East issues; both leaders praised the state of bilateral relations and expressed the hope that these relations will improve in the future, XINHUA added. King Husayn met on 8 December with CCP Central Advisory Commission Chairman Deng Xiaoping, who reiterated China's support for the Arab people, XINHUA noted.

Lebanon

Ghali Visit -- Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali arrived in Beirut on 8 December and met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Cairo radio reported. In a statement reported by the radio, Ghali said the purpose of his visit is to convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to President Amin al-Jumayyil and to inform the Lebanese leaders of Egypt's solidarity with them and their people.

Security Situation -- Druze gunmen killed two Phalangists and wounded three others in an ambush in the 'Alayh area, IDF radio reported. Noting that the attack could lead to further Christian-Druze fighting, the radio said the IDF has closed off access roads to 'Alayh. Nevertheless, the Druze and Christians exchanged a number of kidnap victims, according to Beirut radio.

Reporting on incidents elsewhere, Beirut radio said that two Syrian truck drivers were killed by a car bomb in Barr Ilyas and that an explosion in the northern city of Tripoli killed 2 persons and wounded 13 others. Pro- and anti-Syrian groups clashed in Tripoli on 8 December, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Israeli troops sealed off large sectors of the southern coastal city of Sidon on 8 December, AFP reported.

PLO

PLO Leaders in Yemen -- Following his talks with Saudi leaders, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat flew from Riyadh to San'a', where he held talks with YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, according to San'a' radio reports. Nayif Hawatimah, Secretary General of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DPFLP), also arrived in the YAR, the radio noted. Earlier, the DPFLP leader delivered a speech at a Palestinian camp in the PDRY in which he rejected President Ronald Reagan's peace plan and also condemned all attempts to fragment the PLO. In his address, which was broadcast by Aden Voice of Palestine radio, Hawatimah praised the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist fighters who confronted the Israeli invasion of Lebanon while the armed forces of Arab regimes remained passive.

Relations With Soviet Union -- Yasir 'Arafat sent the CPSU Central Committee a telegram stressing the PLO's firm desire to strengthen ties with the Soviet people and with the peoples of all socialist countries, according to the text of the telegram broadcast by Moscow television.

Maghreb Affairs

Algerian-Moroccan Summit -- Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat expect an Algerian-Moroccan summit conference to be convened before the end of the year, the Riyadh daily AL-JAZIRAH claimed. Both countries have given Saudi Arabia's King Fahd their agreement in principle to attend the summit, which is expected to deal with the Saharan crisis and with normalizing Algerian-Moroccan relations, the paper added.

Iran-Libya

'Abd al-Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, and a 10-man delegation arrived in Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian foreign minister, IRNA reported. The head of the Libyan delegation told IRNA that his country wants to expand relations with Iran.

Afghanistan

At least 100 civilians died during the past 2 weeks as a result of heavy shelling of villages surrounding Kabul, AFP reported, citing information obtained from Western diplomats and resistance fighters. More than 50 of these deaths occurred during a 22 November raid on three villages north of Kabul, AFP added. The rebels reportedly captured a "substantial" number of Afghan officers in November, AFP noted.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SOURCES SAY ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN SUMMIT IMMINENT

PM071519 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 4 Dec 82 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-JAZIRAH: Algerian-Moroccan Summit To Be Held Before End of Current Year"]

[Text] Rabat -- Reliable Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat expect an Algerian-Moroccan summit conference to be held in Tunis before the end of this year. The sources told AL-JAZIRAH that both sides have conveyed to His Majesty King Fahd their agreement in principle to attend. The summit meeting will deal with developments in the Sahara crisis and the question of normalizing Algerian-Moroccan relations, which have deteriorated significantly since the Sahara war began.

As anticipated earlier by AL-JAZIRAH, the atmosphere is now more suitable for such a meeting. When His Majesty King Fahd recently visited Algeria, Algerian officials told him that they support the principle of a referendum on self-determination in the Sahara. Morocco advocated such a referendum at the OAU summit in Nairobi.

On the other hand, the legislative elections in Morocco are likely to be postponed until after the referendum.

It is worth noting here that the Kingdom, under the leadership of His Majesty King Fahd, is steadily making great efforts to create the right atmosphere for Arab reconciliation on the basis of commitment to the Fes resolutions.

HANI AL-HASAN NAMED JOINT COMMITTEE LIAISON

GF080648 Doha QNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Dec (QNA) -- In its issue to be published tomorrow, the Kuwaiti weekly magazine MIRA'AT AL-UMMAH reports that Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, will act as liaison within the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee in all emergency situations.

Quoting diplomatic sources, the weekly reported that Al-Hasan, who is a member in the committee, has not been appointed director of the PLO office. However, he has made Amman his family residence.

FAHD AL-QAWASIMI ON PEACE INITIATIVES

JN042002 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Interview with former Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi in Paris by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Nabil Darwish -- date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] You are one of the few Palestinians who has met with several U.S. officials. You have recently met with U.S. Middle East envoy Philip Habib. About 10 days ago you and your colleague Muhammad Milhim [former Halhul mayor], were the first two Palestinians to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. This meeting with Shultz came after the U.S. initiative or U.S. plan to settle the Middle East issue, specifically that of Palestine. What were your impressions of that meeting?

[Answer] In fact, we as Palestinians seek to meet with the Americans on both the official and popular levels with the aim of explaining the justice of our cause and the Palestinian people's concept of a just peace in the Middle East. We must not ignore the importance of the U.S. role in the issue of peace and war in the Middle East.

Accordingly, when we were invited to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, we hastened to see him. We explained the Palestinian viewpoint on a just peace, which guarantees the rights of all the region's peoples, including the Palestinian people. I believe that the U.S. stance or Reagan's plan was the U.S. concept of the way to solve the Middle East issue. This does not at all mean that this concept is the same as that of all the Palestinian people, although we see in it many positive points. I do not at all believe that the Americans think we should be committed to accept all the points contained in Reagan's plan. Reagan's plan reflects the U.S. concept of the way to solve the Middle East issue. I feel that the United States is seriously working for a solution to the Middle East issue. This seriousness is important particularly in this stage. Out of such seriousness we sought a meeting with the United States. Reagan's initiative has many positive points and we hope that in the future the U.S. stand will develop and play a real role toward the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East.

[Question] Reagan's plan, as made public by the press and President Reagan himself, was a general plan with a general concept. There is no doubt that when you meet with U.S. officials you discuss the details and the future moves to implement this plan. From some details of this plan or from reading between the lines, how far does this plan go with regard to the establishment of a Palestinian entity in association with Jordan, a confederation or a state?

[Answer] In fact, what Reagan proposed was a Palestinian entity. However, I think that the Palestinian people want a Palestinian state. I also believe that a Palestinian state can be established if all are convinced that a Palestinian state is the road leading to a sound and lasting solution. I do not think that it will be difficult to establish a Palestinian state linked with Jordan in a confederation. At the beginning it might be difficult to imagine the general form of a Palestinian state. However, the Palestinians are entitled to a state and no one can deny them this right. Speaking about an entity is meaningless because there is nothing which is called entity; there is something called a state, whether an independent state, united state, or a state linked with another state. I think that Reagan's talk about an entity gives emergence to the Palestinian character without giving the future form of this entity, as this is left for the Palestinians themselves.

[Question] It is now well-known in international policy, particularly U.S. policy, that the lowest price that can be paid for a Palestinian state or even a Palestinian entity is the recognition of Israel. This subject of recognition is now being proposed to the Palestinians. What is your opinion about this subject?

[Answer] Actually the problem is not that of recognizing or not recognizing Israel. The present problem is the Palestinian people's rights. The Palestinian people want a state. It is impossible to ask the Palestinian people to recognize Israel before recognizing their right to establish a Palestinian state. I think that those asking for this recognition are trying to pressure the Palestinian people. This pressure is not the road leading to a just peace. We talk about peace not war. Peace comes through acceptance and not pressure.

[Question] Some of your colleagues in the occupied West Bank say that the settlement policy -- and they sometimes say it is not only a settlement policy but also a policy of building complete cities in the West Bank -- in 1 or 2 years will lead to the cancellation of anything on which negotiations may be held. Accordingly, recognition would no longer be an issue.

[Answer] Settlement is a quick onslaught undertaken by the Israeli Government in the occupied territories. We do not deny the dangers of this settlement policy, which exceeds all bounds. Meanwhile, I believe that settlement is one of the Israeli measures to force the Palestinian people to recognize Israel for no tangible return. A short while ago I told you that recognition is not the core of the problem. We believe that the core of the problem is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Are those asking us to recognize Israel ready to accept this right? If so, the equation will be easier and will need an accurate study.

[Question] You mean that recognition will then be possible.

[Answer] I think that recognition in this case would be much easier for the Palestinian people to accept.

[Question] You and your colleague Muhammad Milhim were deported several years ago. You met with several world figures who tried to help you to return. I recall among these figures French President Francois Mitterrand. No doubt you have also raised this subject during your meetings with the Americans. Is your case unsolvable or are there some international promises to pressure Israel in this regard?

[Answer] Actually the Palestinian people always live on hope, despite all ordeals. Those who were expelled from their homeland in 1948 are still living on this hope. I was expelled in 1980, only 2 and 1/2 years ago. Do you want me to lose hope after only 2 and 1/2 years? The Palestinian people have not lost hope after 34 years. I am still exerting efforts to return because I love my homeland, country, and kinfolk. I have the right to return according to all laws, norms, and values. I am not the one to blame if I have so far not been able to return. My expulsion is one type of the unjustifiable arbitrary measures taken at a time we are talking about a just peace for all peoples.

DPFLP'S HAWATIMAH ADDRESSES SHATILA FIGHTERS

GF070923 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1810 GMT 6 Dec 82

["Text" of speech delivered by Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DPFLP, at the Shatila martyrs forces camp in PDRY on 6 December -- recorded]

[Excerpts] The Arab air force and artillery remained silent, but the Palestinian gun did not. [applause] Neither did the Lebanese nationalist gun. With your bodies [interrupted by applause] with your bodies you made a legendary heroic exploit for the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples on the soil of Lebanon -- the soil that was baptized with rivers of blood of the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab volunteers. Meanwhile, the regimes and rulers remained as silent as a graveyard -- thousands of airplanes, tens of thousands of tanks and heavy artillery, and hundreds of dangerous and long-range rockets that could have reached any occupied city and town in Palestine and could have reached every Israeli city and town in the Palestinian territory remained silent like a graveyard. But the Palestinian territory fighters, you, and the Lebanese nationalist fighters stood up to tell our peoples, the Arab nation, and the entire world through your experience in Shatila and the experience of your brothers in Sabra, Sidon, Tyre, An-Nabatiyyah, Ad-Damur, and (?Jarash) -- with all these experiences the Palestinian fighters stood up to tell our people, the peoples of the Arab nation, all the liberation and progressive forces in the world, and the entire community that this hostile army they call invincible can be defeated.

The invading Israeli forces can be crushed if the free independent Arab fighters whom the Arab regimes have enfettered are made available. [applause]

They think that by signing a treaty of Palestinian autonomy the Palestinian cause and our country's soil will return once again (?in peace) to [word indistinct], the agents, effete, and opportunists who associate themselves with occupation. We tell them that the Palestinian bones are made of steel and cannot be broken; the Palestinian flesh is bitter and cannot be swallowed and the Palestinian blood cannot be condemned. [passage indistinct] [applause]

Those who have built the great (?treasure) for all the peoples of the Arab nation, those who were the (?knights) of the entire Arab nation in all the battles of Beirut and the battles of Lebanon, will be the loyal sentinels who will guard the rights of our people and make sure the Revolution will continue so that we can say loud and clear: No to the Reagan plan; no to the concessions demanded by the Reagan plan; no to the attempts by America's Arabs and the Arab regimes; no to backing off from the recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of our people and of the rights of our people to an independent state; and no to any form of guardianship and containment of the independent Palestinian decision and our national unity. No to all attempts to fragment the Revolution, the PLO, and our people. No, a big no, to all of that. And yes, a big yes, to the PLO, our legitimate sole representative under the leadership of my brother, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. A big yes to the firm Palestinian national unity. [applause]

We will defeat with our arms and guns all attempts to fragment the Palestinian arena and all attempts to fragment the Revolution and the PLO. We will not let those separatists seize upon the Revolution, the PLO, and the great march whose course you made with your arms and guns and for whose upcoming victory your martyrs have paved the way with a river of blood. The Revolution will not be a fortress among the Arab countries; there will be no guardianship or confiscation of the national Palestinian decision. [applause] The PLO and Revolution will remain the sole legitimate representative of our people.

We will continue to adhere to and protect our people's right to return, to self-determination, and to an independent state. We will carry on the march until the certain victory is achieved in this unified way. We will protect the independent unified Palestinian national decision and will not let the fingers of the Arab regimes and Arab lectures from any capital tamper with the Palestinian arena because the Palestinian arena belongs to its people, revolutionaries, fighters, and martyrs. [applause]

The Aden meetings have affirmed the Palestinian national independence, the insistence on Palestinian national unity, and the insistence on safeguarding the Palestinian national decision and the unity of the PLO. They have affirmed their insistence on the fact that no one represents the Palestinian people except the PLO, and on saying no to Palestinian autonomy under Camp David or the Reagan plan and yes to the independent state, self-determination, and return. [applause] They have also affirmed our persistence to continue our armed, organizational, popular, political, and diplomatic struggle so that our cause can become more victorious.

ISAM AS-SARTAWI QUOTED ON PALESTINIAN ISSUES

LD061322 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1027 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Paris, 6 Dec (KUNA) -- Salih Bahman reports: An important Palestinian personality has said that the Palestinian leadership must take into consideration what the world sees as a basis for peace, particularly international calls for the recognition of the right of Israel to exist.

However, Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi, adviser for international affairs to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, and also member of the Palestine National Council, added: "It is Israel which refuses to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region."

In a special interview with KUNA, he warned that if the liberation organization is unable to achieve its national objectives through a political settlement "it is ready to fight to the last Palestinian."

He rejected Israeli claims that the liberation organization had been militarily destroyed following the invasion of Lebanon, describing such claims as fiction. He said "the liberation organization is not finished militarily and will not be as long as there is a Palestinian people and a struggling Palestinian will." "The proof of this is that the organization was able to carry out last November's daring operation in Tyre, where the Israeli military headquarters was destroyed and, by Israel's own admission, 76 Israelis were killed. This number is 1/4 of what the Israeli military leadership announced for its total losses in the war in Lebanon."

Answering a question on the attitude of the liberation organization toward attempts to push it to recognize Israel before being recognized by the latter, Dr as-Sartawi said: "The American and European stand on this recognition is clear. These countries proceed in their perception from the fait accompli as they see it, [word indistinct] dealing with the region through the existing states; in this attitude, America and Russia are the same. The Soviet Union's stand and the late Soviet leader Brezhnev's plan demand the right of Israel to exist." He added: "Therefore, the prior recognition of Israel is a formula which concerns not only America and Europe, but the world as a whole, particularly the friendly Soviet Union. The Palestinian leadership must take into consideration that which the world sees as a basis for peace."

Dr as-Sartawi said: "If we go back to the decisions of the Palestine National Councils and to the Baghdad Arab summit decisions, which are considered the basis for all decisions that came later, and in which the liberation organization and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states have taken part, we find that the Baghdad summit demands the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. A just peace presupposes the existence of an enemy, and a just peace is to be made with an enemy. Therefore, even the Arab summit decisions deal with Israel as a fait accompli."

He added that the Arab Fes summit of last September "also deals with Israel as a fait accompli. If we read through official Arab decisions we would not find a rejection of concluding a just peace with Israel. On the contrary, this is what the Arab states are saying."

"The real problem is the Israeli attitude of rejecting peace; we are not rejecting peace, Israel is," he said.

The Palestinian official denied that the Palestine Central Council had rejected, at a conference it held in Damascus toward the end of last November, American President Reagan's plan for peace in the Middle East. He said that the council statement had criticized the plan "and there is difference between criticism and rejection."

He added: "A number of Palestinian officials have explained that the body eligible to accept or reject Reagan's plan, or any other serious plan which might be put forward at this or any future stage, is the Palestine National Council. The council has the right to accept or reject any project, or to define the points through which a project becomes acceptable."

Dr as-Sartawi pointed out what he described as very big weak points in Reagan's peace initiative, namely, "ignoring the PLO... and not mentioning the setting up of a Palestinian state." However, he added that the project "contained positive points, as it speaks, for example, of the necessity to halt the building of settlements, and there is no Palestinian -- from the extremes of the rejectionist and moderation fronts -- that would not agree with this point.... Morevover, the Reagan project has reintroduced the topic of Jerusalem to the agenda; it implicitly and indirectly canceled the Israeli Knesset's decision to annex Jerusalem, and there is no Palestinian that would object that."

The Palestinian official stressed the importance of the American role in finding a settlement to the Middle East crisis and said: "The PLO's first priority must be to obtain recognition by America. Had America recognized us we would not have been slaughtered in Lebanon. Our slaughter in Lebanon comes under the heading of nonrecognition of the PLO by the United States." He also criticized U.S. nonabidance by a promise it had given to compel Israel to respect the cease-fire in West Beirut and to protect the Palestinian camps and the Lebanese and Palestinian civilians after the exit of the Palestinian Resistance from Lebanon last August. He said: "This was a written undertaking presented by the American envoy Philip Habib to Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, according to which the Palestinians agreed to leave Beirut. Hence the occupation of Beirut by Israel and the slaughter of its civilians constitutes a stab to American honor and its promise."

He requested the United States "to do what is useful and what could indicate that it has taken measures" against Israel for its massacring Palestinian civilians in the Sabra and Shatila camps toward the end of last September, or to show that it uncovered the identity of those who committed the massacres.

Dr as-Sartawi said the United States "has kept silent regarding the massacres up till now; it is asked to answer this question, and it is not helpful for it to hasten to make accusations. It is our right to ask America why the massacre took place after it promised to protect the Palestinians in Lebanon. It is asked to give an explanation concerning the massacre. If it insists on re using to give an answer, then we will be right in drawing our own conclusions." We go back to the question of how this situation would affect the Palestinian desire to agree with the Americans, he added. Here I may say that Mr 'Arafat was right when he said that America is both adversary and judge.

The United States is an essential superpower that even the Soviet Union cannot ignore. It is better for us to calculate its strength, not forgetting that we are still dealing with America on the Arab level, in spite of the massacres.

Arab delegations are continuously going to America, under the auspices of the Arab summit, even after the massacres. Therefore, we cannot drop America from our calculations, dropping it would be a mistake [word indistinct]. He added: What we need to do as we have said before, is to exert the utmost effort in order to extract U.S. recognition of Palestinians as people having national rights, and the liberation organization as the representative of this people, legitimately and solely.

The Palestinian official estimated the number of Palestinians slaughtered in Lebanon as a result of the Israeli invasion to be 175,000, and said that Israel had carried out massacres in the Palestinian camps in the south of Lebanon which have not been uncovered. "The massacres in Sabra and Shatila were not the only ones. The facts will be revealed one day, and it will be said that the Sabra and Shatila massacres were nothing compared with the massacres that took place in the south of Lebanon." He cited the statement of Israeli Reserve General Matityahu Peled, who put the number of massacre victims in Lebanon at 175,000.

He said: "Where are the Palestinians of South Lebanon? There is no trace of them. Out of the total number of Palestinians, there are only 75,000 in the camps of Sidon, Tyre, and Ad-Damur from the area stretching from the Lebanese border to Beirut. Only 75,000 Palestinians left. Their number before the invasion was 250,000. Where are the rest? In my estimation the massacres which took place were much worse. The massacres in Sabra and Shatila, near Beirut, were uncovered because Israel was forced to withdraw from Beirut and was unable in the time [word indistinct] to cover and erase its traces.

However, in the south, Israel was in full control, which encouraged it to carry out more bestial massacres where it could conceal all news and events.

Dr as-Sartawi renewed his warnings against Israel's attempts to "Balkanize" Lebanon. He said he was among those who warned before this war started that Israel would intervene with one defined objective, namely, to Balkanize Lebanon in order to destroy the entity of the Lebanese state and replace this entity with a Maronite state, Druze state, a core for a Shi'ite state, and a Sunni later on. In addition, Israel has ambitions in Lebanese waters and its south. It is known that Israel intends to annex the area stretching from Sidon to the south and I think this is its objective. He added: "Therefore, what is being designed for Lebanon is very dangerous. The Balkanization of Lebanon is part of the fulfillment of the long-range Israeli objective, namely, the Balkanization of the Arab East in order to reach the Gulf oil sources. Lebanon is the first step, as should be clear to everybody. What should be done in Lebanon is not only a Lebanese task but a full pan-Arab one. We should do our best to compell the Israelis to pull out without delay, because Israel has taught us that it will not withdraw from that it occupies."

Answering a question as to whether there is any difference if the Israeli Labor Party or the ruling Likud Party is in power, the Palestinian official said the two parties "meet in their objectives" differing only in the means."

He added: However, there is a third Israeli group which thanks the PLO for its development because of its decision to open dialogue with the Israelis. This group calls for Israel's withdrawal to the borders of 1967, a stop to expansionist projects, and for recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and the setting up of its independent state in the West Bank and the Gaza sector. This third group consists of a "Peace Now" movement, the Rakah Israeli party and the Israel-Palestine Society, the setting up of which was helped by Israel's retired Gen Peled."

Dr as-Sartawi has been subjected to criticism from various Palestinian sides because of his repeated contacts with Israeli sides, among which is the communist RAKAH Party, [word indistinct], and Gen Peled.

'CRISIS SESSION' SET FOR VIENNA 19 DECEMBER

AU291429 Vienna KRONEN ZEITUNG in German 29 Nov 82 p 2

[Unattributed report: "OPEC Crisis Session in Vienna"]

[Text] Kuwait -- The oil ministers of the OPEC states will met for a crisis session in Vienna on 19 December. This was announced in Kuwait yesterday. The topic of deliberations will be differences over the prices and quantities of oil produced. As is well known, a price war is now raging between the oil countries because several of them are selling the "black gold" below the OPEC benchmark price of $34 per barrel. The oil countries' receipts are sharply declining.

NAN REPORTS OPEC 1980-81 EXPORT FIGURES

AB030733 Lagos NAN in English 0705 GMT 3 Dec 82

[Text] Vienna, 2 Dec (OPECNA/NAN) -- Official statistics released by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) this week show in detail how falling oil output last year began to eat into the revenues of the major producing states.

In 1980, the 13 member countries were exporting a combined 22.89 million barrels of crude a day. Though this was less in volume terms than the 26.84 million barrels a day average for 1979, it was nevertheless worth a record $278.59 billion (about 192.13 billion naira), the highest level in the organization's history.

The OPEC annual statistical bulletin 1981 charts the decline in production and revenue which has followed. Last year petroleum exports fell to 18.43 million b/d, worth $253.07 billion (about N174.53 billion).

The most marked drop was in Iraq. Oil exports fell from 2.46 million b/d worth $26.14 billion (about N18.02 billion) in 1980 to an estimated 697,400 b/d worth $10.39 billion (about N7.6 billion) last year.

In contrast, Iran achieved a small increase in exports, from 796,700 b/d in 1980 to an estimated 815,000 b/d although the bulletin records a fall in value from $13.46 billion (about N9.28 billion) to $8.62 billion. (About N5.94 billion).

Nigeria's crude oil exports according to the bulletin declined from 1,960.2 thousand b/d in 1980 to 1,228.4 thousand b/d with the value falling from $25.616 (about N17.6 billion) in 1980 to $18.329 billion in 1981 (N12.64 billion).

Saudi Arabia, the largest OPEC producer, recorded a slight fall in the volume of exports from 9.22 million b/d in 1980 to 9.02 million b/d last year -- almost half the organization's total exports. In value, on the other hand, its crude exports increased from $102.01 billion (about N70.35 billion) to $113.22 billion (about N78.08 billion).

In all, nine of the member countries saw a fall in the value of their oil exports and four made gains. A breakdown of exports of crude by OPEC member countries and value of exports:

	Crude Exports (Thousand B/D)		Value of Crude Exports (Million U.S. Dollars)	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
Algeria	715.5	521.8	12,508	10,821
Ecuador	110.2	105.5	1,394	1,481
Gabon	151.2	124.9	1,792	1,481
Indonesia	1,034.6	1,050.4	12,850	14,079
Iran	796.7	815.9	13,457	8,619
Iraq	2,459.0	697.4	26,136	10,388
Kuwait	1,296.5	813.8	17,855	14,915
Libya	1,691.4	959.2	22,566	15,648
Nigeria	1,960.2	1,228.4	25,616	18,329
Qatar	465.7	391.0	5,387	5,316
Saudi Arabia	9,223.2	9,017.9	102,014	113,227
UAE	1,697.3	1,439.0	19,454	18,740
Venezuela	1,287.2	1,266.0	17,562	19,913
Total OPEC	22,888.7	18,431.2	278,591	253,075

INDONESIAN OIL MINISTER SAYS OPEC TO DEFEND PRICE

AB071855 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] The Indonesian minister of mines and energy, Dr Subroto, has said in Lagos that the OPEC will defend the $34 per barrel benchmark price for its crude oil. Dr Subroto, who was speaking in an interview over the weekend, called for improved production technique by the organization as well as the observance of the organization's production quota. He explained that this was necessary to solve the structural and temporary setbacks the OPEC was experiencing in marketing its oil. Dr Subroto stated that structural impediments arose because oil-consuming countries tended to use less petroleum energy in their industries, as they have found substitutes. He said that OPEC's temporary handicaps were attributable to reception and stockpiling by industrialized countries.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC FINANCE MINISTERS TO MEET IN MANAMA 25 DEC

LD041134 Kuwait KUNA in English 1057 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 4 (KUNA) -- Official financial sources on Saturday affirmed that a meeting of the finance ministers of the six-member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council would be held in Manama, December 25.

The sources told KUNA that the Finance and Planning Minister 'Abd al-Latif Yusuf al-Hamad would participate in the meeting.

The finance ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman, whose countries are members in the GCC, will discuss at their two-day meetings, subjects relating to the coordination and unification of financial policies of the GCC states and issues dealing with the unification of customs and laying out a framework for a unified customs area.

GCC COMPILING OPINIONS ON SECURITY AGREEMENT

GF051622 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Dec (WAKH) -- It was announced in Riyadh today that the GCC General Secretariat has received observations and opinions from a number of GCC member states on the draft of the comprehensive security agreement in implementation of the resolutions of third GCC summit held in Manama last month.

QNA quotes an official source at the GCC General Secretariat as saying that the Secretariat will, as soon as it receives the observations of all the GCC member states on the draft agreement, call the subcommittees stemming from the permanent committee of the interior ministers of the council to conduct a study on all laws pertaining to residency, work, nationality, and civil conditions in the member states with the aim of possibly unifying these laws.

The source adds that the purpose of these meetings is to hold more studies on the draft security agreement in accordance with the observations of the member states. He indicates that the General Secretariat and the experts committee of the Interior Ministries have already stated their views on the draft.

The source concluded his statement by saying that the GCC interior ministers will be invited to discuss these studies after they have all been completed.

KUWAIT

PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

GF061102 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 5 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah yesterday met five local newspaper editors-in-chief to put before them his government's position on the recently-submitted amendments to Kuwait's Constitution. Debate on the 16 amendments began in the National Assembly last week.

Shaykh Sa'd sought to reassure local newsmen that any fears about a curtailment on public freedom were baseless. He said the proposed amendments were not designed to strengthen the authority of the state at the expense of parliamentary democracy.

Local editors who included ARAB TIMES editor-in-chief, Ahmad Jarallah, sat with the premier from two hours as he explained the meaning of controversial articles the government would like to see amended.

He questioned the reluctance by deputies to discuss the proposed changes, pointing out that the government had made it clear that the assembly was free to approve, reject or amend the proposals.

Relations between the state and the legislative authority should be guided by flexibility and understanding, free of irrational sentiments, he said.

The government bill proposes, among other things, that the amir can declare martial law and issue emergency laws in the period of parliamentary recess.

In addition, the government has proposed that the number of deputies be raised from 50 to 60 and the legislative term of the National Assembly be increased from the current four years to five.

Clarify

Shaykh Sa'd went on to clarify these proposals as well as a number of other foreseen changes.

The government feels that the present period of 15 days given to the prime minister to name his Cabinet is insufficient. It proposes the period be extended to 30 days to allow for maximum consultation.

Another proposed amendment concerns the period during which laws passed by the assembly, but rejected by the amir, should be taken up and reviewed by the deputies.

Under present provisions, the head of state's reservations must be discussed in the first upcoming session of the assembly. The government proposes that the debate be postponed till the second upcoming session to give both the executive and legislative branches of power the chance to study alternative solutions. "Time is one factor which settles differences," Shaykh Sa'd said.

The prime minister charged that in refusing even to discuss the proposed changes, the deputies were "deliberately misleading the public," since the government had made it clear that the articles could be rejected or amended.

The government is asking that the period during which martial law can be effective be extended from the present three months to six months. "Should an emergency occur and hopefully it won't a three month period is insufficient." Shaykh Sa'd said about the government's view.

Free

Another amendment tabled by the government concerns laws which need to be promulgated in the period of parliamentary recess. Shaykh Sa'd stressed that anything directly affecting the citizens' life would, naturally, be excluded.

He cited the example of a traffic law which he said might be issued without the consent of the parliament. As soon as the assembly reconvenes, debate on the law would be called for and the assembly would be free to amend it, if it so wishes. The assembly would also have the right to cancel the full provision, he said.

Shaykh Sa'd said that it may prove imperative for the amir to extend the legislative term of the assembly in times of war or other emergencies, for instance, when elections cannot be held.

The time alloted for election of parliamentary committee members is to be extended from the present one week to two weeks, under the same proposals.

The number of deputies to sit in the house should be 60 and not 50, since Kuwait's population is expanding. Other proposed amendments constitute only marginal changes, the premier pointed out.

In conclusion he assured the journalists that he had the interest of Kuwait people at heart and he would consult a number of deputies shortly in an effort to reach speedy solutions.

Assembly Debates Amendments

LD071916 Kuwait KUNA in English 1604 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 7 (KUNA) -- The National Assembly Tuesday listened to H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah reiterating that the constitution amendment the government was seeking was not intended to deprive the parliament of its jurisdictions. But the assembly, however, indulged in a heated debate which the speaker, Mohammad Yusuf al-Adsani, ended by adjourning the session till next Tuesday.

The crown prince refuted all claims that the proposed amendments would rob the assembly of its powers, saying that all opposing parties should have resorted to constitutional channels in tabling their protests.

The government had merely asked the parliament to approve the discussion of the constitution amendment which does not in any way mean that the deputies are committed to endorse the proposals, Shaykh Sa'd said, adding that the deputies have the full right when debating the proposed items either to agree, amend or simply refuse them.

All rumours which have spread accusing the government with robbing the council and the citizens of their rights will ultimately vanish and the truth will remain, the premier asserted.

He emphasized, however, that the Kuwaiti executive authority is keen on maintaining the country's democracy and the proposed amendments fall within this context.

The proposals are primarily aimed at the welfare of Kuwait, stability of the constitutional system and the cooperation of all constitutional authorities, the crown prince concluded but declined to elaborate saying that he will comment on the articles when they are deliberated and left the stand for others to voice their views.

The issue was put to discussion and comments flew from all over the hall expressing keenness on preserving the constitution which had taken into consideration all domestic affairs.

The deputies described the Kuwaiti Constitution as unequal among all Arab constitutions while others demanded that all amendments should be inspired by the Islamic teachings and the Arab Kuwaiti traditions.

Minister of Justice, Legal and Administrative Affairs Shaykh Salman Qu'ayid as-Sabah took the floor saying the government wished to witness more discussions over the subject and does not mind if the debate went on for another month.

A proposal was submitted for closing the debate and nominating two for the amendment proposal and two against it but the assembly split over the issue and the deputies traded hard words upon which the speaker put off the session for next Tuesday.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOSCOW, BEIJING

GF071057 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal returned to Riyadh today after taking part in the talks of the seven-member Arab committee in Moscow and Beijing. The committee's visits to the Soviet Union and PRC took place with the aim of explaining the Arab peace plan adopted by the Fes summit to the UN Security Council permanent members.

Comments on Talks

LD080826 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has stated that the results of the visit of the Arab seven-member committee formed by the Fes summit to the PRC has been extremely positive. In a statememt to the Pakistani news agency during a stopover in Karachi en route for the Kingdom yesterday, he described the task of the committee as representing part of the coordinated efforts of the Arab League aimed at explaining the Arab peace plan, which was approved at the Fes summit.

His highness the foreign minister said that during its 2-day visit to Beijing the committee held excellent talks with the senior PRC leaders. He noted that similar talks and contacts had taken place and will take place with the other permanent members of the Security Council.

In reply to a question about the demands that had been made by the Soviet Union and some other states for the convening of a special international conference on the Middle East, which would try to reach a final settlement to the problem, his highness the foreign minister answered that the Arab world has no objection to participation in such a conference, provided that a preliminary assurance is obtained from the Security Council concerning some important elements which are part of establishing a just peace in the area. His highness defined these elements as the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the occupied Arab territories and the acceptance of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish their own state.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added that the Security Council had previously decided to accept and guarantee these principles on which a just peace in the Middle East can be based. The Arab states will not hesitate to attend such a conference where they will do everything possible to break the current deadlock and to proceed toward a final settlement of the Middle East problem.

At the end of his statement to the Pakistani news agency, his highness called on the members of the Security Council, particularly the United States, which has a great influence on the Zionist state, to shoulder their responsibilities toward the area.

RIYADH COMMENTS ON HABIB'S REMARKS ON PLO

GF072022 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Dec 82

['Ali 'Abdallah al-Mani' news analysis]

[Text] Brothers: When U.S. envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib made a statement in Italy recently that the PLO must be involved in negotiations to find a peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis, it was construed by observers to be a change in the U.S. stand on the PLO's role in achieving peace in the region, particularly as the U.S. envoy's remark on the participation of the PLO in negotiations came after the meeting Halhul Mayor Muhammad Milhim and his colleague the Hebron mayor, Fahd al-Qawasimi, who were expelled by Zionist occupation authorities, held with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The explained to Shultz that there will be no solution to the Middle East issue without recognizing the Palestinian rights to self-determination and the establishment of their state. Without the PLO's participation in the peace process, the U.S. initiative for peace in the Middle East will come to a dead end without reaching any real solution to the problem.

However, officials in the Zionist entity, who were disturbed by Habib's statement, instructed their envoy in Washington to discuss with U.S. officials whether in his statement Habib was expressing his personal views or a change in the official U.S. stand toward the PLO.

Whether Habib made such a statement or not, the furor which the leaders of the Zionist entity raised over the PLO's participation in negotiations reflects their worries over the political victories the PLO has achieved on the international level. It also shows the determination of these leaders to maintain the status quo in the Middle East, a situation which the enemy has greatly benefited from, the most recent of these benefits being the Zionist troops' invasion of Lebanese territory and their presence in Lebanon until now.

RIYADH ON SAUDI APPROACH TO MIDEAST PROBLEMS

GF071930 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Hashim 'Abduh Hashim news analysis]

[Text] The Kingdom has given a new affirmation to brothers and friends that the security and stability of the Middle East region is linked to the exit of the superpowers, keeping their hands out of the region, and their noninterference in its internal affairs, thus enabling the region's countries to practice their full rights as peoples who have the right to live in security and tranquillity. At the same time, continuing to disregard Arab rights will be an endless source of disturbance in the region.

This came during meetings the regent and crown prince, His Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, held with Arab and other leaders and prominent personalities maintaining contacts with this country to be acquainted with our views on the issues currently under discussion.

As is our regular custom, we have to convince the superpowers that involving the region's countries in a whirlwind of conflict against our interests will result in catastrophe for the world and will not be in the superpowers' interests.

The Kingdom's affirmation of these facts came this time as a clarification meant to stop all attempts to explode the situation in the region, to maintain the state of anxiety and disorder, to impose tutelage on its countries and peoples, and to perpetuate an expansionist policy at our expense.

The Kingdom also affirmed its rejection of all attempts to isolate the PLO from moves aimed at coordinating stands and at choosing the appropriate time for peace in the region, because the PLO -- which has been, is, and will continue to reflect the Palestinian people's will -- is willing to cooperate to the utmost in establishing peace and coexistence with all under a just settlement recognizing all Palestinian people's rights and respecting their will as represented in their choosing the PLO as their sole legitimate representative. No dealings can be made with another party, no move can be made without it, nor can it be excluded from any settlement.

It is good for these and other countries to accept this Palestinian understanding and encourage all positive initiatives to converge with constructive efforts to find a formula acceptable to all. However, if resistance, exclusion, and grim attempts continue, this will only encourage the infiltration of other conflicting parties into the region and open the door for another kind of move that we would not like to see forced upon the Arab countries. Perhaps our brothers and friends have become aware that the situation is now different from any other time. What used to be a source of worry in the past began to herald a new situation; we cannot predict where it will lead the entire region.

The meetings Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz held gave this impression and emphasized that we must enter a new stage of organized action to avoid all negative elements in the way of settlement if we want the region to avoid an explosion.

We, in Saudi Arabia, do not emphasize this out of our feeling of anxiety but because of our sincere desire that friends, before others, must understand that they have to change their policies, methods, and ways of dealing with our issues, now that these methods have become useless.

DEFENSE MINISTER: SAUDIS WILL PILOT AWACS PLANES

PM071131 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 2 Dec 82 pp 1, 19

[Sa'ud al-Musaybih and 'Abd al-Muhsin ar-Rashid report: "Amir Sultan: "New National Service Regulations To Be Issued Within a Few Months"]

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, has said that the national service regulations will, God willing, be issued within a few months.

His Highness Amir Sultan was replying to a question by AR-RIYAD following an inspection visit to King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which is to be inaugurated officially next year.

His Highness Amir Sultan said that the issuing of the national service regulations was delayed because of the studies that had to be completed and due to the work involved in this major project "which, God willing, will be completed within the coming months."

His Highenss Amir Sultan said that the AWACS aircraft which Saudi Arabia purchased from the United States will be flown by Saudi young men who are now undergoing training.

His Highness Amir Sultan denied recent reports that foreign crews will operate the AWACS aircraft.

His highness said that the aircraft of this type now in the Kingdom are hired and that a number of Saudi young men are taking part in operating them.

His royal highness exprcssed his great admiration for the achievements he saw at King Khalid International Airport. He said: My feeling is the same as any citizen who feels pride at this gigantic project, which provides a great service to the country.

COMMERCE MINISTER LAUDS TRADE WITH U.S.

LD041332 Riyadh SPA in English 1230 GMT 3 Dec 82

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 4 (SPA) -- Saudi Commerce Minister Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyim today expressed "satisfaction" with the developing U.S.-Saudi economic and trade relations.

Addressing an "open symposium" organised by the Saudi Commerce Ministry and the U.S. trade and development mission, Dr as-Sulayyim said the Kingdom was "following the best policies in the world concerning free trade by exempting most of its from custom tariffs."

He noted that the Kingdom fully supported U.S. President Ronald Reagan's recent declaration in which he rejected the principle of "protecting national products through imposing high custom tariffs on exported commodities."

Dr as-Sulayyim said the Kingdom was keen over the implementation of these principles specially at a time when its petrochemical products were due to make a headway in the international market next year.

He noted that the Kingdom's imports from the U.S. had increased from 314 million U.S. dollars in 1972 to nine billion dollars during the current year in view of incentives offered by the Kingdom to foreign investors.

Dr as-Sulayyim said the "Kingdom's political stability provides a healthy atmosphere for production and investment."

He noted that the American investments in the Kingdom amounted to 35 billion U.S. dollars and said there were more than 500 American companies working in the country.

Dr as-Sulayyim hoped that the U.S. commerce secretary and his country's trade and development mission's visit would help in boosting bilateral trade relations.

Addressing the symposium, U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said his accompanying delegation representing 34 American establishments concentrated on finding means of developing bilateral cooperation in six sectors namely agriculture, water resources, technology, communications, civil aviation and manpower development.

"If each of this sector could export a billion dollars to the Kingdom it will help in providing 30,000 jobs and solving the American unemployment problem," he added.

SESSION HELD ON RELATIONS WITH SAHEL STATES

LD041352 Riyadh SPA in English 1237 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Jidda, Dec 4 (SPA) -- The Islamic committee for solidarity with the African Sahel states began its third session here today under the chairmanship of Iraqi Vice-President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Mairuf.

The committee is an affiliate of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO).

The two-day session is attended by ICO Secretary-General Habib Chatti, Iraqi State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan, Saudi Foreign Under-Secretary for Political Affairs 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mansuri and delegations from Kuwait, Malaysia, Palestine and United Arab Emirates.

In an opening speech, Vice-President Mairuf hoped that the committee would be able to continue its help and assistance for Islamic African states affected by food shortages and development problems.

The Iraqi vice-president affirmed that the ICO ever since its formation strived to boost cooperation among Islamic states in all fields.

He noted that industrialised states "imposed terms and conditions to develop economic cooperation with developing states.

Mr Mairuf called for cooperation and integration among developing states and highlighted the importance of intensive efforts to "unify Arab ranks to confront all foreign attempts aimed at sowing seeds of discord among Moslems."

He underlined the importance of economic cooperation among Islamic states in view of current political and economic conditions in the world.

The Iraqi vice-president deplored the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and noted that it had "negative repercussions on the Islamic world as well as the international community."

He thanked King Fahd and Crown Prince 'Abdallah for the attention they had paid to assist the committee in its work.

ICO Secretary-General Habib Chatti noted that the committee translated the Islamic At-Ta'if summit's declaration for Islamic solidarity into action.

He said Islamic states had made liberal donations to combat drought affecting the African Sahel states.

Mr Chatti added that the committee would review the best possible means to ensure the continuation of urgent assistance to the Sahel states in the form of development projects and food aid.

Aid Discussed

LD052116 Riyadh SPA in English 1905 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Text] Dec 5 (SPA) -- The Islamic solidarity committee with the drought-stricken states of the African Sahel today recommended that the donor nations should provide all information and data to the Islamic Conference Organisation's (ICO) Secratariat General relating to foodstuff aid and help in development ventures.

The committee, on the second and final day of its third session, also recommended preparation of a study on progress and implementation of such projects and difficulties hindering execution of ventures as well solutions for them.

It agreed that the ICO's Secretariat General should furnish a quarterly report on the progress of development schemes.

The committee also decided that a sub-committee on the African Sahel should meet every four months at the invitation of the ICO secretary-general to follow up its recommendations and their implementation.

The committee recommended that all aid extended to the African Sahel should be channelled under the ICO name as an "expression of solidarity and collective action."

It called on the ICO secretary-general to implement an urgent campaign with those ICO states which had not yet contributed to the aid programme.

The committee suggested that the aid campaign should be included on the agenda of the upcoming 14th ICO foreign ministers conference.

In a press statement, the committee's chairman Iraqi Vice-President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf described the outcome of the committee's third session a "good step on the path of Islamic solidarity."

He thanked the ICO secretary-general and its General Secretariat for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

For his part, ICO secretary-general lauded delegates' efforts to ensure the success of the session and thanked King Fahd and Crown Prince 'Abdallah as well as the Saudi Government for their consistent efforts in backing Muslims all over the world and supporting Islamic [words indistinct].

PDRY

STATEMENT ON OMAN-U.S. JOINT MANEUVERS

GF071640 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Dec 82

["Text" of statement issued by an "official source" at the PDRY Foreign Ministry -- read by announcer]

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has announced the following:

Since 2 December, the U.S. forces have undertaken a widescale military maneuver in Omani territories. Sophisticated U.S. military equipment is being used in this maneuver, including B-52 warplanes, F-15 warplanes, the U.S. aircraft carrier "Enterprise," AWACS planes, and [word indistinct] planes. The ground, air, and sea forces -- which are taking part in the maneuver -- are linked through U.S. satellites. The maneuvers began with intensive landing by air and sea on the Omani coasts, at airports and at designated spots along the Omani coastal area which is close to the PDRY's territories. This U.S. maneuver in Oman is taking place simultaneously with the U.S. military maneuver in Somalia.

The PDRY, which is following the activities of this military maneuver, announces its denuciation and rejection of such dangerous military activities which are being undertaken by the U.S. forces in this region.

The PDRY views this maneuver as a matter that exposes the security of this region to danger. It must be made clear to everybody that insistence on intensifying the U.S. military ground, sea, and air presence has grave indications which exceed all the pretexts that were reiterated within the framework of the unsuccessful attempts to convince the region's countries to accept the U.S. military presence. It has become clear today that this provocative U.S. activity is aimed at bringing this region back to the era of direct imperialism, hegemony, and imperialist control of the resources and wealth of the region's peoples. The PDRY has repeatedly warned of the dangers of the U.S. goals and warned of the deception that is practiced by some of rulers in order to impose the U.S. military presence in the region.

The PDRY views holding the maneuvers in the Omani and Somali territories -- at this very time, and under the current circumstances our Arab area is experiencing, and after having signed an agreement of principles with Oman, an agreement aimed at ensuring security and stability for the region's peoples -- as a matter that will undoubtedly harm the good results of the positive efforts which were exerted during the negotiations between the PDRY and Oman. Moreover, they constitute a new indication that the United States -- since it is the source of danger to the region's peoples and international peace -- is after maintaining tension in the region and has an aversion to maintaining peace and security in this region.

The PDRY exerted sincere efforts in order to ensure security and stability in the region, and positively reacted to the good offices by some of the brothers in this direction. What the imperialist circles have to understand is that, the PDRY's insistence on peace in this region, stems in the first place from its sincere, stringent, and strong determination that the peoples of this region must not be the victims of the rash, adventurous policy of the U.S. imperialist circles.

Therefore, the PDRY -- at a time when it is continuing to adhere to its peaceful efforts and activities in order to forge stability in this region, since it is a national responsibility that has to be shouldered by all its countries -- hopes that all the region's countries will respond to the interests of their peoples through the preservation of peace and prevention the dangers of the imperialist presence. Moreover, the PDRY will adopt all the measures and precautions that ensure preservation of its security and sovereignty.

CHAIRMAN SENDS CABLE TO OMAN'S SULTAN QABUS

GF071432 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received a thank you cable from His Excellency 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, in reply to his majesty's congratulatory cable on his country's independence day. The cable reads as follows:

Your Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman:

We gladly received your congratulatory cable sent on the occasion of national independence day. We thank you for this congratulations and wish you health and happiness and all goodness, happiness and prosperity for the fraternal Omani people.

YAR

YASIR 'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN SAN'A' 7 DECEMBER

GF071724 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in San'a' this afternoon on a visit to the YAR. The Palestinian leader was accorded a grand official reception.

'Abd al-Karim al-'Araki, vice president, chairman of the People's Constituent Council and member of the Standing Committee; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Hasan Maki, deputy prime minister for economic affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant General 'Abdallah al-Bihayri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; Brother 'Ali (Mukhbir) Husayn, secretary general of the General Union of the Corporations for National Cooperation and member of the Standing Committee; a number of members of the Consultative Council and Council of Ministers; the Standing Committee; the General People's Congress, and People's Constituent Council; senior army and police officers; Brother Hikmat Zayd, PLO representative in San'a'; Lieutenant Colonel Abu Hamid, commander of Sabra camp; and a number of representatives of Arab and foreign missions in San'a' were at the airport to receive Brother 'Arafat.

Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to Saba' News Agency in which he said: Our Arab nation is now passing through complicated and difficult circumstances due to the changes and events in the region. On this basis, we come here to talk with our official brothers, foremost of whom are Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brothers, in addition to exchanging views and consultations in this difficult period, especially since the Fes summit formed a seven-member committee. This committee has concluded its work. Hence, it is necessary to consult and assess the work of this committee.

In addition to that, we and our Yemeni brothers have been assigned a task by the Fes summit conference -- this task concerns the Ethiopian-Somali conflict. In my last meeting with President Mengistu in Moscow, I spoke to him about this Palestinian-Yemeni task and we are waiting for the reply. During this visit, we will also discuss bilateral relations and relations among the three countries. With God's will, our steps will be successful for the prosperity of our nation and the future of our masses.

Brother 'Arafat described the meetings of the Palestinian factions in Aden as being intense, useful and successful, especially as they were held in a spirit of frankness. The meetings resulted in the Aden statement.

SAN'A' REPORTS ON ARRIVAL OF DPFLP'S HAWATIMAH

GF071726 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also arrived in San'a' this afternoon on a visit of several days to the republic.

On arrival, he made a statement to Saba' News Agency, in which he said: We are here at the invitation of Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the brother leaders of the northern part of Yemen, out of an appreciation for the struggling Yemeni people and the efforts of the two Yemens in support of the Palestinian Revolution with all possible means, and in particular during the period of the Israeli-U.S. assault on Lebanon and during the period of the siege of the heroic city of Beirut.

Brother Hawatimah added: The efforts of the two Yemens were highly appreciated by the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and Arab masses. The efforts of the leaders of the two parts to mobilize the Arab countries to support the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples had great impact on our revolutionaries, fighters, and strugglers. We are here to honor the souls of Palestinian, national Lebanese, and Yemeni martyrs who died in Lebanon and in the camps of our Palestinian people in Lebanon. We greet the joint struggle of our peoples against all forces that always try to strike at the Palestinian Revolution and its allies.

Brother Hawatimah added: We are here to reaffirm the unity of the struggle of the Palestinian Revolution and the September and October Revolutions. We are all in a common march, fighting a common enemy. We are sure that our talks with the leaders of Yemen, especially with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, will produce positive results. We are also here to renew the meeting with our brother fighters, the heros of Sabra -- the heros of Beirut -- who fought in defense of Beirut and repelled the Israeli attacks for over 75 days and prevented the invading troops from entering Beirut, thus affirming to all the peoples of the Arab nation that the Israeli enemy can be defeated and can be killed.

What is required is a political decision to fight and elongate the fighting in order to force the enemy to leave Lebanon and the Arab and Palestinian lands and restore the rights of the Arab nation by the withdrawal of the enemy's troops from all occupied lands and restore the constant and historical rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is the right to return, to self-determination and to establish an independent state on Palestinian soil under the banner of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people.

During our talks, we will explain the current and direct threats after the Beirut battle, foremost of which is the Reagan plan and the concessions that he demands for the purpose of imposing further surrenders on the Arab region.

Brother Hawatimah concluded his statement by saying: We are confident that our talks and meetings with our comrade Palestinian fighters of the Sabra troops in the northern part of Yemen will produce positive results in the service of the common struggle against imperialism and expansionist Zionism.

He was received at the airport by Brother 'Abd as-Salam al-'Anti, assistant secretary of the Standing Committee, and Brother Hikmat Zayd, PLO representative in San'a', and Lieutenant Colonel Abu Hamid, commander of the Sabra troops.

ENVOY ADDRESSES UN ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS ISSUE

NC071000 Cairo MENA in English 0905 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] United Nations, Dec 7 (MENA) -- The Egyptian alternate representative to the United Nations, 'Amru Musa, underlined anew that peace in the Middle East could never be achieved without restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In his speech early this morning before the UN General Assembly Musa said that Israel's policies and practices are the main hurdle to peace in the Middle East.

He further called upon all member states to show firmness and to take concerted action in preventing Israel from pursuing such subversive and irrational actions.

He added that "any peaceful comprehensive settlement should duly take into consideration the rights of Israel to existence, recognition and security on the basis of equality and reciprocity".

On dealing with the Middle East cause, Ambassador 'Amru Musa proposed to tackle it in the following dimensions:

First -- the Israeli dimension:

Recently, Israel has been carrying out a strategy to achieve hegemony in the Middle East. Relying on what could be characterized as a "long arm policy" encouraged by massive military and financial aid, Israel has been able to:

1 -- Reach the outskirts of Baghdad and destroy a nuclear research facility designed to help development efforts in Iraq.

2 -- Invade Lebanon and occupy its capital, Beirut, and in the process sowing havoc all over that country and laying much of Lebanon to waist... in addition to overseeing the gruesome slayings in Shatila and Sabra (?and) the "Palestinian holocaust".

3 -- Entrench itself in most of Lebanon with avowed designs for continued occupation or de facto annexation.

4 -- Annex the Syrian Golan Heights.

5 -- Annex the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem.

6 -- Intensify the policy of settling the occupied territories.

7 -- Violate certain contractual obligations.

8 -- Reject all initiatives for a peaceful settlement notably its off-hand and outright rejection of the September 1st President Reagan's peace initiative.

9 -- Adamantly deny the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and the attempts to impose or to propose the absurd idea of the so-called alternative Palestinian homeland.

In view of this, it is not difficult to conclude that those policies and practices are the main hurdle to peace in the Middle East. Consequently, we call upon all member states to show firmness and to take concerted action in preventing Israel from pursuing such subversive and irrational actions.

We must act now before the Middle East is hurled even deeper into the chaos of wanton destruction and mindless violence.

Having said this, I hasten to emphasize that any peaceful comprehensive settlement should duly take into consideration the rights of Israel to existence, recognition and security on the basis of equality and reciprocity.

Second -- the Palestinian dimension:

Let me begin here by stating once again that the Palestinian problem is the crux and the center of the solution in the Middle East and that no viable peace would be achieved without the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

In our view, a viable solution must take the following points in consideration:

1) The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination is undeniable. In fact, General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947 has provided for the right of the Arab people of Palestine to establish their own state in Palestine. Article 3 of Part 1 of the plan of partition of Palestine annexed to Resolution 181 states "independent Arab and Jewish states -- shall come into existence."

2) Resolution 181 is indivisible in the sense that the acceptance of the existence of the State of Israel should lead to the acceptance of the right of the Palestinians to enjoy equal rights.

3) Resolution 181 should be read in conjunction with Security Council Resolution 242 in all its parts.

4) Resolution 242 is essential for the Palestinian cause as it is essential in the comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. The inadmissibility of the acquisition of territories by war is an essential part of this resolution. It clearly calls on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories including, of course, the Palestinian territories, occupied since 1967. How could a Palestinian entity or state be established without the return of the occupied territories as stipulated in Resolution 242.

5) The declaration by Chairman 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, that he is ready to accept all United Nations resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian problem is therefore welcomed and should be properly assessed and duly understood.

6) Accordingly, the logical overture towards a peaceful settlement is the mutual recognition of the rights of both parties by the Palestinians and Israelis as provided for in the French-Egyptian initiative which was submitted to the Security Council last July and still stands valid and viable.

Third -- the Lebanese dimensions:

We believe that the situation in Lebanon as a result of the Israeli invasion and occupation is very serious and requires close and consistent efforts to ensure the Israeli total and immediate withdrawal and to counter the Israeli efforts to procrastinate and designs to prolong their occupation, in this respect, Egypt calls for:

1) The total withdrawal of all Israeli forces and personnel from Lebanon according to a well defined timetable.

2) The termination of all forms of foreign intervention in its internal affairs and the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

3) The respect for the legitimate authority in Lebanon as well as for the rights of all the Lebanese people.

4) The support for efforts for reconstruction of Lebanon.

5) Security cannot be the security of Israel alone. Therefore, mutual security should be preserved through international peace-keeping forces. The role of the United Nations here should be underlined.

6) The rejection of all attempts to impose certain conditions on Lebanon, especially under the present circumstances.

There is no viable argument, that could be accepted from Israel as to its claims to security or the need of its forces of occupation to stay in Lebanon.

A process of withdrawal has to be initiated. The passage of time will only exacerbate tension and the failure of the current efforts -- under whatever pretext -- will only contribute to the erosion of the credibility of such efforts.

Fourth, the American dimension:

The United States has indeed a unique role in the Middle East that has never been so widely acknowledged. This acknowledgement cannot be and end in itself, it should be an added incentive for positive and prompt constructive action to redress the existing serious situation. We believe that President Reagan has taken a courageous and statesmanlike initiative on the 1st of September of this year which is designed to break the vicious circle of stagnation and rejection and launch a viable process of negotiations. The Government of Egypt has welcomed the positive aspects reflected in this initiative and wishes to express its satisfaction for the declared intention of the United States Government to stick to its initiative.

At the same time, we wish to state the following:

1) The credibility of the American initiative lies in its early implementation and not in its mere existence.

2) Time is running out. Without a sustained, resolved and determined effort to implement it, the initiative would certainly lose its momentum.

3) The continuation of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and the delay in the long awaited action to effect the Israeli withdrawal would impede the prospects of solving the Lebanese crisis and seriously affect the prospects of the overall peace efforts.

The continuation of the Israeli policy of settling the occupied territories is a major obstacle, not only to peace process but to the possibilities of peace altogether. In this, the United States shoulders a special responsibility.

Indeed, had it not been for the abuse by Israel of the massive financial support coming from the United States under different forms of arrangements, Israel would not have been in a position to embark on such a massive build-up of settlements and on its policy of settler-colonialism in the occupied territories.

5) We believe that a constructive dialogue between the United States and the PLO should start as soon as possible. it is only natural that, if the Reagan initiative is to be successfully implemented, the administration should not fail to contact all parties concerned without exception. A dialogue with the representatives of the Palestinian people should not exclude the possible participation in the process of peace of the other parties directly concerned, namely Jordan.

6) In trying to reach a final settlement of the Palestinian problem, norms of fairness, equality and justice should be always borne in mind.

7) It follows that no interference should be permitted with the right of the parties to choose their own representatives. By the same token, we cannot deny the authenticity of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

8) We would call upon the Palestinians to consolidate their position through joining other viable Arab partners in order to embark on a much needed immediate process of peace. We express our satisfaction with the progress made in the talks between the PLO and Jordan. We are not calling for the abandonment of their long term legitimate goals but to take a practical path which would allow progress to materialize.

9) Again, because time is of utmost importance now, we call upon the PLO to weigh things from the standpoint of their national goals and aspirations and take a well calculated, well considered and courageous practical step. We call instantly on all Palestinians to close ranks. By the same token, we must emphatically urge a policy of "hands off the Palestinian people" and let them decide their own priorities without the heavy hand of parochial policies and narrow interests especially from within the region.

Fifth -- the European dimension:

Egypt considers that security in Europe and the Mediterranean is closely linked to the security in the Middle East which cannot be achieved without a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

From this standpoint, we believe that Europe has an important role to play, both as to the Lebanese question and to the comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Consequently, Egypt and France have jointly proposed their initiative of 28 July 1982 in which we stated that the settlement of the Lebanese problem should contribute to the initiation of a durable restoration of peace and security in the region within the framework of negotiations based on the principles of security for all states and justice for all peoples in order namely to:

1 -- Reaffirm the right of all states in the region to existence and security in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242.

2 -- Reaffirm the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination with all its implications with the understanding that to this end, the Palestinian people shall be represented in the negotions and consequently, the PLO shall be associated therein.

3 -- Call for the mutual and simultaneous recognition of all the parties concerned.

This initiative has indeed taken into consideration the realities of the situation as well as the legitimate rights of all parties concerned.

AL-AHRAM WELCOMES RECENT 'ARAFAT STATEMENTS

NC070626 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA) -- In tomorrow's editorial, AL-AHRAM welcomes PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent statements in which he expressed the Palestinian Revolution's acknowledgement of Egypt's role. The paper says: "There is a clear rapprochement between the Palestinian leader and Egypt's stand, as can be seen in his daily increasing praise for this stance and in his noting the lives, funds, and efforts that Egypt has offered for the Palestinian issue."

The paper affirms that it is indisputable that Egypt welcomes the removal of any veil that obscures the Arab vision from the reality of its stand. Moreover, Egypt welcomes any Palestinian cooperation in the political sphere to bring the Palestinian sides closer through coordination within the framework of a comprehensive plan for movement and positive interaction with the international prerequisites. We will, with a constructive and felixible spirit, deal with reality and derive all possible gains from it and employ the available possibilities and relations with acumen and diplomacy to attain most of our hopes and aspirations.

GHALI ON IMPORTANCE OF PRC PREMIER'S VISIT

NC071623 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] PRC State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang will make an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 20 to 24 December.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that the PRC State Council premier's visit to Egypt has special importance because it is the first visit by his excellency to Egypt. The visit basically aims at bolstering bilateral relations in various fields.

Dr Ghali said the Egyptian-PRC talks will basically center on four subjects: the international issues of interest to the two countries, the situation in Southeast Asia, and developments in the Middle East situation as well as relations between Egypt and the PRC. Current African issues will also be discussed.

MINISTER VISITS FRANCE FOR NUCLEAR POWER TALKS

NC071941 Cairo MENA in English 1820 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Paris, 7 Dec (MENA) -- Egyptian Minister for Power and Electricity Mahir Abazah arrived here today for talks on nuclear cooperation between Egypt and France.

Both Egypt and France had signed last March an agreement whereby France will provide Egypt with two nuclear power stations with a capacity of 1000 megawatts each. The first station is expected to start operating in 1985 and the second in 1986.

SADDAM HUSAYN INTERVIEWED BY AL-MAJALLAH

PM061609 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4-19 Dec 82 pp 14-21

[President Saddam Husayn interview with Muhammad Ma'tuq in Baghdad -- date not given]

[Text] [Question] The questions I have prepared cover three topics: The first is the Iraq-Iran war; the second is the internal situation in light of the war developments; the third is Iraq's stand on issues in the Arab area and, consequently, its attitude toward the great powers. If you permit we will begin with the war. Do you see an imminent end to it?

[Answer] To say whether the end of the war is near or remote is not a matter of pure speculation; otherwise, it would involve some sort of sorcery or magic. Rather it is an analysis based on the facts of life. War is in effect a direct conflict between two wills through conflict between two armies. It is also a mixture of a conflict of wills in the light of interference with the two parties directly concerned in the conflict and of the principles and interests that each party to the conflict represents. We would like to ask: What would Iran's triumph in the war mean? What are the principles that will triumph if Iran wins the war? We will leave the conclusions till the end and look now at what the Iranian officials say. They say they will not stop at the borders but they are planning to reach Baghdad, An-Najaf, Karbala', Misan, Basra and Mandali. Some of these towns are very far and others are 15 to 20 km from the borders. The Iranian officials also say they want to overthrow our regime. Therefore they want to enter Iraq and expand at its expense. They also want to annex Iraq to Persia either politically or through total annexation. But will their ambitions stop at Iraq's borders? Whoever can annex Iraq can also annex those countries that are weaker than Iraq. The Iranians have been and are still saying that their ambitions go beyond Iraq -- to the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf at least. They claim they are entrusted with carrying the "Islamic message" to the farthest ends of the Arab homeland and the Islamic world in accordance with the method they are pursuing. We know, and you know, this is only a subterfuge; what they want is a Persian empire that incorporates the Gulf and the Peninsula. Thus Iran will seize the Arab oil wealth and its influence in the world will grow. The Persians have been so throughout history. Expansion depends not only on wills but also on capabilities; when they have the capabilities they will seek to expand. Therefore, they will try once again despite their failure in Basra, Mandali and Misan to realize that expansion at Iraq's expense, but, consequently, smashing the dam so the flood will submerge the whole area is impossible. When they understand this there will be peace. We in Iraq have made our stands, principles and commitments clear. It is the Iranian side that insists on continuing the war, and in so doing it is motivated by two wills:

The first is an internal one stemming from the desire to expand and depending on the ability or otherwise to achieve such expansion. The second is an external one stemming from interference with the Iranian regime. The Arab nation's stand is clear. It does not want to commit aggression against Persia and there is none among the Arabs that considers Persia to be part of the Arab nation, neither as a territory nor as a people, nor where interests are concerned. They are one nation and we are another; they are a people and we are another; they are a state and we are several states. We have no designs on Persia, neither as Ba'thists nor as Arabs. Our dogma does not cross the borders into Persia.

We do not say that the Persian must be Ba'thist, nor do we have in our dogma the principle that we are responsible for liberating the Iranian peoples. Therefore, international interference in that regime influences it and makes it believe its designs are achievable; they also make it believe it is in its interests to prolong the war. Therefore, I cannot say whether the war is going to last 6 months, 1 year or longer. But what I would like to say clearly is that most of the war is behind us and that little of it is left. I say this on the basis of the fact that the Iranian regime is beginning to realize that it is unable to achieve the objectives it has set for itself and to expand at the expense of the Arabs and Iraq. It is beginning to move toward realism and away from the conviction [that it can win the war]. This is evident in the Iranian's regime's dealings with the Gulf countries. It is dealing with them in a manner different from the way it dealt with them before and at the beginning of the war. There is, therefore, a change in behavior, although it is not accompanied by a change in intentions. But politics are not entirely intentions. What is possible plays a major role in politics.

[Question] It is evident from your answer that you attach special and principal importance to change within Iran for the war to end. What will Iraq do if the Iranian rulers insist on continuing it until they achieve their objectives, which are, as you said, to overthrow the regime and bring the country under their control? Can Iraq indeed end the war or impose a long truce, as you indicated before the recent battles when you said the coming battle is decisive because it will destroy the Iranian forces to the extent that they will not be able to launch another attack?

[Answer] We said that if the Iranians try to cross our international borders once again with a military force the size of that which they threw against Basra and fail as they have already failed before that city, then the war will afterward be broken down into small battles and we will consider it as having actually ended where the use of large concentrations of forces is concerned, although it may continue officially. In practice the Iranians have not used the same level of concentrations they used in Basra and they have not persisted in their recurrent attacks as they did in Basra. Therefore, there is still the possibility that they will repeat their attempts.

[Question] Therefore, the decisive battle you talked about has not yet taken place.

[Answer] They will not be able to concentrate forces as much as they did in Basra. After Basra there was a stage of decline which was apparent in the battles of Mandali; this was followed by another decline in Misan. Therefore, they are in the third stage of decline and there will be a fourth stage of further decline. After Basra they began using smaller concentrations and suffering greater losses. They might launch a new military offensive of the magnitude of the offensive against Mandali and Misan. But there will be no new Basra-type [offensive]. We have felt this in the recent fighting and we have seen that their resolve has begun to weaken.

[Question] You said in a speech to the Council of Ministers that the initiative will not be left in the hands of the Iranians. You also said in one of your tours of an Iraqi district that Iran's strategic position is better because it fights with a greater population density and geographical depth. Do we understand from this that you are in the process of reconsidering your decision to withdraw behind your international borders?

[Answer] No, the decision still stands. But Iran's entry into our territory has given us moral and military backing, both internally and internationally. So if one day we see a certain prominent military target beyond our borders and the war is still going on, then there will be nothing to stop us from attacking it. This is my answer.

[Question] According to Iranian claims, Iraqi forces are still occupying Iranian territory -- other than Zayn al-Qaws and Sayf Sa'd -- despite the decision to withdraw. What is your comment?

[Answer] You have yourself visited the operational sector in Mandali. Where did you find the Iraqi forces? (I replied: Inside the Iraqi borders). What is happening now is that the Iranians are unable to enter some of the no man's land, whether on this side or that side of the border, because of the nature of the terrain. They might explain their inability to enter these territories as being due to their occupation by Iraqi forces. But these territories are no man's land in which control belongs to the militarily superior side which can prevent the other side from entering it and inflict heavy losses on it if it tries. As for the claim that the Iraqis occupy Iranian territories, this is refuted by the fact that the Iranians entered our territory and arrogantly announced that they have penetrated our territory to the depth of 10 km, while we say they have penetrated only 5 km. You probably have noticed that the Iranians have developed their propaganda methods. In the battles east of Basra they said they did not want Basra. Before the battles in Mandali they said the Iraqis were still occupying parts of Iranian territory and they would expel them from this territory. While the world was protesting the Iranian concentrations on the Iraqi borders, the Iranians were loudly proclaiming they wanted to enter Iraqi territory. In their statements about the attack on eastern Maysan they said they wanted to expel the Iraqis from part of Iranian territory, and when they found themselves inside our territory and their entry became a fact, they said they had entered Iraqi territory. This happened 2 days after we announced that the penetration had taken place. They started arguing: No, it is not as what Saddam Husayn says. We have pentrated 10 km and not 5. Saddam Husayn's words are incorrect. Thus their intentions have been exposed. It must be recalled that we have asked for the deployment of international forces between the two sides, but they have rejected the idea.

[Question] Does the request still stand?

[Answer] Yes, it still stands. If we had the desire to cling to Iranian territory we would not have invited international forces to come.

[Question] Are you still hoping for good results from the various mediation efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict? Have any of the mediation efforts achieved any progress you would like to develop?

[Answer] Our official stand has been and still is to welcome and even encourage mediation. This has been our attitude toward all the mediating parties. With regard to achieving progress, it would be along the lines of the Iraqi stand which calls for a cease-fire and direct or indirect negotiations on the basis of firm principles, which are: noninterference in internal affairs, refusal to covet one another's land, mutual respect for one another's sovereignty, and no illegitimate rights to be accrued as a result of the use of force.

In the final analysis none of the [mediating] committees achieved progress toward this end. This has been the situation from the beginning. In practice no progress has been made in the past 2 years.

[Question] Do we implicitly understand that you no longer hope for any good to come from mediation?

[Answer] We hope for neither good nor evil, that is, we do not attach great importance to the mediation committees, nor do we expect any evil or harm from them. We are afraid of nothing, and we have nothing that we afraid might be taken from us as long as we act logically. We want our sovereignty. All the committees, which have come from every direction -- from the United Nations, the Islamic Conference and others -- say yes to our sovereignty and yes to noninterference. We have found no difficulty with any committee in making this understood. Therefore, we do not expect any harm to befall Iraq from any committee. Meanwhile, we do not base our policy on the hope that these committees will bring about a solution. We welcome the committees, but on the basis of our policy, which is founded on our people's steadfastness. Even when our friends and brothers and some neutral people told us they were confident that if we withdraw behind the international borders Iran would not cross them we withdrew and told them we were sure Iran would not cross the borders, and we prepared ourselves for that.

[Question] Through your dealings with Iran on the front and through mediation, what is your impression of the mentality of the present Iranian rule, and do you still believe it is possible to reach an honorable peace?

[Answer] The mentality ruling Iran at present is backward concerning the outlook on life, on international politics and on neighbors and their rights. Its actions are suspicious and so are its politics. It views with malice the historic heritage of its relations with the Arab nation. It is an aggressive and expansionist mentality when it has the necessary means to expand, now or in the future. Nevertheless, we say it is possible to achieve peace with this regime when it has failed to achieve its objectives. This regime is not religious in its reality, rather it uses religion as a cover for its actions. It is not really a question of principles. For it, principles are variable in the light of what is possible and according to the existing political tactic, this is how we saw it -- in the dialogue with the Americans over the hostages. We saw the same thing in the instructions of the "Great Guide" Khomeyni to the Higher Defense Council regarding the purchase of arms and equipment from Israel and the confessions of Bani-Sadr himself. Therefore, it is possible to establish peace with it when it realizes it is butting its horns against a rock and when it fails to realize its ambitions at the expense of Iraq and the Arab nation. The peoples have a role to play in this regard. I do not claim that had Iran found entry into Iraq an easy thing and had the annexation of Iraq to Persia been possible, there would have been [Iranian] popular demonstrations and strong internal opposition to such action. No, I have no such illusions. When the Iranian rulers said they were capable of occupying Baghdad, 1 million Iranians or more applauded them. But when the Iranians see that the price they have to pay for such aggressive policy is exorbitant, they will abandon Khomeyni. This was clearly evident and beyond any doubt in the recent fighting when Khomeyni was unable to concentrate the same number of forces he concentrated before Basra. Why? Because the Iranians have begun to realize increasingly that the Iranian rulers must abandon their costly expansionist and aggressive policy.

[Question] You mean peace based on a balance of power, not on goodwill.

[Answer] No, there is no goodwill in Iran. The Arabs should not delude themselves into thinking that that regime, or any other regime based on ambition, might show goodwill. The shah, his father and their predecessors usurped Arab territory. Those people now want to usurp Arab territory. These are historic facts, not personal views. We do not just read about intentions, without evidence. We base our conclusions on tangible facts.

[Question] I have noticed that the Iraqi media attach much importance to the Iranian opposition and regard it objectively as a partner of the Iraqi forces in destroying the present Iranian regime. This gives rise to speculation about relations and coordination between Iraq and that opposition. Do you support the establishment of relations with the Iranian opposition, relations that would help change the present regime?

[Answer] Noninterference in internal affairs is one of the principles we uphold in negotiations. It was an essential part of our policy toward Iran before the war. It is not our responsibility to correct the situation in Iran. It is obvious, however, that when there is war, the Iranian opposition sees our steadfastness against Iranian expansionist ambitions and the Iranian regime's failure to achieve its objectives as factors which help it in weakening the regime. We also see the activity of the opposition as a factor which helps us weaken that regime, but without contacts and without coordination. Each side in its own position proceeds in accordance with its own convictions, independently.

[Question] International laws speak of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states, but we see that the limits of the Soviet Union's security extend to Afghanistan and Poland, the limits of Israel's security stretch to Lebanon and even to Baghdad where the Iraqi nuclear reactor is, and the limit of U.S. security reaches El Salvador and, before that, Chile. Don't you think that you too have a right to draw limits for Iraq's security inside Iran?

[Answer] In times of war it becomes a matter of will and capabilities, but when the war ends there should be goodwill, and what is legitimate should prevail. It is legitimate and right that each of the two states, Iraq and Iran, should respect the boundaries and sovereignty of the other and not interfere in the other's internal affairs. This would provide real security for both countries. This is our opinion regarding neighbors.

[Question] The Iraqi-Iranian war at one stage assumed a religious character. This is still the case now: a state raising the slogan of religion confronting a secular state. How do you see religion in this war? In other words, do you see the war as being, in one aspect, a war between two Islams or two Islamic views?

[Answer] In a way it is a war between the essence and the false but not between two Islams, as you say. The majority of the Iraqi people are Muslims. There are other religions. Nobody can logically claim the Iranians are more religious than the Iraqis at present or that they were so in the past. The Iranian officials have used religion as a cover and have used sectarianism as a means to divide the people of the same nation in order to weaken them and to facilitate the task of containing them and then expanding, because expansion fails when it is faced with a strong steel war.

Iran has used religion and sectarianism as a means of expansion, just as Israel is using sectarianism as a means of weakening the Lebanese prior to expanding at their expense, and just as Zionism and others are trying to encourage sectarianism in Egypt. Egypt is a big country and it is scientifically and technically the most advanced Arab country. This is a unifying factor and so is the fact that all Egyptians are Arabs with no ethnic minorities, as in Iraq, Lebanon and Algeria. Because there are no ethnic distinctions there, the sectarian distinction has been exploited, as with the Muslims and Christians. The Iranian rulers are playing the same role. We believe certain circles are behind it. Some Iranian officials -- we do not say all -- have direct links with these suspect circles. Therefore, the conflict is between one situation and another. It is not basically a religious conflict, but one side has used religion as a cover. In our case, the secular state is not a violation of religion. It separates religion from politics, but the state still looks after all the religions and sects. The religious spirit is there. This is how we understand the meaning of a secular state. It does not mean abandoning religion, as in the old secular concepts. On this basis we can state that we are not neutral between atheism and faith. We support faith.

[Question] Observers are convinced that it is almost impossible to achieve a regional solution to the Iraqi-Iranian war since mediation has so far been unsuccessful.

[Answer] What do you mean by regional solution?

[Question] A solution directly between the warring parties.

[Answer] Was there ever a war which did not ultimately end in a solution?

[Question] I meant to distinguish between a regional solution and a solution in which international mediation or influence plays a part.

[Answer] Under all circumstances, mediation is an indication of the desire of the two sides to meet at a certain point through mutual response, on a logical basis or possibly on the basis of existing facts. So there is no case where a regional solution is not possible. However, sometimes the two sides are initially unwilling to meet, so they choose two or three people and ask them to move between them and ascertain their respective positions. Then there follows some movement to a point of agreement, sometimes to the right, other times to the left or, more often, to the center. The center point is the point acceptable to both sides.

[Question] The efforts made so far have come from the Third World -- such as the nonaligned states, the Islamic Conference Organization and others. By international solution I mean a solution in which the two superpowers become directly involved. You recently said the two superpowers did not want the war to end despite the threat to their interests. The question is: Do you look forward to an international solution within the framework of detente between the two superpowers? Do you seek such a solution?

[Answer] Do not take at face value what Western reporters attribute to me. Sometimes they only report bits and pieces of what I say, and sometimes they even make it up. I say that if the United States and the Soviet Union wanted to end the war, they would have done more than they have. We in Iraq wonder if the two superpowers really mean what they tell us about wanting to end the war. This is the gist of what I said, and it still applies. I sometimes mention the Soviet Union as an example.

I say that the Soviet Union is a state bordering Iran and close to the region, so it must have its own strategy. What is this strategy? We have a right to ask if this strategy is for or against ending the war. Then there is the United States. It has vital interests in the Gulf region, and so do its allies. The conflict is right at the gate to the oilfields. It says it wants the war to end and it is against the continuation of the war, but the war continues. The U.S. allies -- Israel and others -- are supplying Iran with spare parts, arms and other things. Again, we have a right to ask: What is the connection between the U.S. strategy and the continuation or termination of the war? This is our question. Obviously, when we question, we display doubt. To whom does our question and our suspicion apply more? Actually, we still suspect more that the United States is playing a role in the war and its continuation. World Zionism comes before the United States in that respect, but when we talk about the two superpowers we say that the question mark is on the United States without waiving the questions we have raised regarding the Soviet Union.

[Question] We, incidentally, wonder about Iraq's relations with the two superpowers. Iraq has said some positive things about the Reagan proposals for a settlement in the Middle East.

[Answer] What positive things?

[Question] I have read a press statement by Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi.

[Answer] The foreign minister was clear in the message he sent to the U.S. secretary of state. The message clearly stated Iraq's position. So, no statement, other than the Fes resolutions, should be taken as representing Iraq's position. This is how we stand. The Fes resolutions are quite different from the U.S. plan. The Fes resolutions are one thing and the U.S. plan is quite another.

[Question] Iraq has long made the restoration of its relations with the United States subject to the emergence of an improved U.S. position on the Middle East crisis. Do you mean to say you are still waiting for such a position to materialize?

[Answer] As we see it, the U.S. position is still aligned with Israel. We do not think the continued break in relations between us and the Americans is normal. It is normal to have relations and abnormal not to, but there were reasons for the severance of relations. The restoration of relations would depend on a fundamental assessment based on the principle that when we see that the restoration of relations serves pan-Arab and Iraq interests then we will restore them. Two main factors figure in the assessment of pan-Arab and Iraqi national interests: the U.S. attitude toward the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the U.S. attitude toward the war with Iran.

[Question] You recently revealed that the Soviet Union has begun to honor armament contracts it concluded with Iraq before the war. There were simultaneous reports that in return, you made a gesture toward the Iraqi communists by releasing some communists prisoners and reinstating them in their jobs. Could we say Iraqi-Soviet relations have entered a new phase?

[Answer] Without dwelling on the details you mentioned, I say that prepaid contracts were signed with the Soviet Union before the war, and it is only natural for the Soviet Union to honor these contracts because they are agreements between two states. On our part, we have not failed to honor our commitments. We have made the payments to the Soviet Union. A delay in the fulfillment of the Soviet commitments would not be normal or right.

The normal thing is for each side to honor its commitments. This is one point. The other point is that our treatment of the communists, whether they are in prison or not, does not depend on what the Soviet Union wants or does not want. It is based on an evaluation of our national interests. The communists go to jail when they break the law. If from a political viewpoint we decide that Iraqi national interests and a correct reading of the situation call for the release of some Iraqi communists, despite the fact that at some time their conduct was culpable under the law, then it is a question of national consideration and it has nothing to do with what the Soviet Union wants or does not want. This is a national matter not subject to discussion.

[Question] There was a time when you pinned some hope on a European role that would get the region out of the circle of the "big whales", as you once said. Do you still hold the same view after the changes which have taken place in Europe?

[Answer] What would get us out of the spheres of influence of the big whales is not only a European role but essentially an Arab will. Naturally, however, when there are powers which understand the legitimate Arab views, the influence of the big whales on the Arab nation recedes. We believe Europe could develop to a point of mature understanding of the Arab will and a legitimate decision to be independent. We would view in this light a European trend toward independence from the United States and its policies, which would weaken the U.S. influence and policies, so the Arab nation's independence could be strengthened by several factors including, hopefully, a future Europe taking an independent course of friendship with the Arabs. The Arab will, however, rates first above all else.

[Question] With your permission, could we go back to the question of the war and could you shed some light on the domestic situation. In a recent address to the Cabinet you made reference to a "fifth column." We understand you were referring to those who spread rumors and interpret government decisions in such a way as to make them appear weak. Is the size of this column such that it deserves reference to it by you?

[Answer] The main point is that we tell the people the truth as we see it, to alert them. Our main strength stems from the people being aware of the dangers. So, when we discover a fifth column method we tell the people. It is better this way. There is not one country in the world without a fifth column. This includes even Switzerland, in the event of war with a European state. Telling the truth always fortifies the people and their consciousness. We had this fact in mind when we said what we said. The truth is that the fifth column existed before the war and it exists during the war, but the question is: How effective is it? Is it absolutely ineffective? I would not be practical if I said this to you, because any fifth column, whatever its size and methods, is bound to have some effect; but has it been able to bend the Iraqi people's will and undermine their consciousness? The answer is no. The proof is that the Iraqi people are for the third year defending their homeland undeterred by the fifth column.

[Question] One of the rumors spread by the fifth column is about former Iraqi Minister Riyad Ibrahim who you said has been punished. He was one of a group who left the government after the ninth regional congress of your ruling party. This led to a stream of rumors and speculation, some claiming the group was executed. Could we ask about the structure of the governing body in Iraq, its methods of change, the significance of the recent changes and the fate of those affected by these changes and moved out of the limelight completely?

[Answer] Before answering your question let us compare what happens in capitalist and communist countries in similar circumstances. The victory of a party in the United States leads to a change of officials from the president down to the lower-ranking officials. The new take over the political sector and its duties from the old and approach the information aspect from an official angle. The old begin writing their memoirs and sign contracts with publishers and motion picture producers, and after a while we hear no more about them. In the communist countries party congresses hold elections. Some win and some lose. The winners come to the fore, in the offices and in the media, and the losers withdraw to new positions assigned to them. So, what is so strange about what is happening here in Iraq? Actually, the aim is just to talk about Iraq. Are we supposed, whenever somebody disappears [from public view], to put him on television? That person failed. He was a command member and had certain duties. Now he is not a command member. He had become a member of the Revolution Command Council not because he led armies on 17 and 30 July but because he was a member of the party leadership. Naturally, anyone who leaves the party leadership leaves the Revolution Command Council and drops out of the limelight. Anyone who joins the party leadership naturally appears in the course of the popular and party activities he carries out as part of the duties of his new post. Our main constitutional decisionmaking bodies in the country are as follows: the National Assembly whose members are elected by secret and direct popular ballot. Its law and constitutional legislative powers are known. Then there is the Revolution Command Council which was born out of the revolution, and some of its members are from the revolution's leadership and some from outside that leadership. It has led the revolution in its constitutional and political expressions to this day. All its members are now members of the party leadership, except one. He is Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf. Here, anyone who was once a member of the Revolution Command Council does not retain political and information privileges after he leaves the leadership. Those who left the regional command have been distributed among the party's central offices. They appear on television in the course of the activities of these offices. They are not central because they are merely members and not leaders. I tell you, we have nobody under detention or under punishment and nobody in prison or under sentence, except the minister named in our announcement. He is a mass murderer. Now, are there any other names whose fate you are concerned about after reading stories in the Western media? Name them to me and I will answer you.

[Question] Only the five ministers who left the government and the Revolution Command Council after the latest party elections.

[Answer] I will name them to you, Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, the former oil minister, is now a member of the party's Cultural Council, of which I am chairman. Tahir Tawfiq is a member of the Farmers' Central Bureau. Burhan 'Abd ar-Rahman is a member of the Labor Central Bureau. He appeared on television yesterday in the course of a bureau activity. He was not the central figure. The central figures were the official in charge of the workers and the dean of the workers, both of whom now have higher responsibility. 'Abd al-Fattah Yasir is in the national command's Foreign Relations Bureau. ATH-THAWRAH published one of his articles 2 days ago. Sa'dun Ghaydan had been ill. He was in the United States when the American press was saying he was under detention. He has completed his treatment and returned. Four days ago I spoke to him over the telephone and asked about his health. Now the Israeli, Syrian and Tehran radios are talking about disappearances of the defense minister. One time they claimed he was wounded and then again they said he had taken refuge in Egypt.

We have brought in medical teams for him from the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, West Germany, Czechoslovakia and Cuba. (laughing) All these international powers have come to treat him. He will be up and healthy within 10 days. (One of those present mentions that the Syrian radio spoke about absence of the finance minister. In reply the president said: It seems they got their information all mixed up after we punished the agents, as you know. Their information is self-contradictory. They know nothing about a state minister.)

[Question] How does President Saddam Husayn view the performance of the Iraqi information media?

[Answer] I have said something about the information difficulties. As for satisfaction, there is satisfaction but there are difficulties still. In the Iraqi state we have inherited economists, theater people, excellent sculptors, painters and musicians. We also inherited the army. We developed and improved these things. As far as the teleivsion, radio and press are concerned, we inherited nothing of value. All those who write are the product of the revolution and their experience ranges from 10 to 14 years. Experience is not something abstract that stands still with the individuals. It is based on what is inherited and steered in the right direction. This is why our press has no depth. This is one of the problems we have faced and are still facing. I am satisfied with the information media but I also understand their difficulties. The fact that I am satisfied does not mean they are good or exemplary, but the intention and determination are there and they work to exhaustion. Even the fighter in the battlefield takes a break sometimes, but the information people have not had a break for 3 years. They work day and night. The other difficulty facing the information peeople is lack of news sources that would help them in understanding necessary and vital details in politics. What they get is only what is officially publishable. I frequently meet with journalists and learn about their problems. I encourage them to criticize, but there are those who are afraid to pursue such a course for fear of causing incalculable harm. Others have a different view of criticism. They believe the attention of the public should not be divided between the battle and the preoccupation with day-to-day living. This viewpoint makes sense. There is a need for balance between the two, but this is something for the brush of a painter.

[Question] You have said that the level of the Iraqi economic program is not the same as it was at the beginning of the war. Can the Iraqi economy withstand the pressure resulting from the continuation of the "fight until victory," as is indicated by your recent decisions? Does the Arab financial aid for Iraq influence the Iraqi decision?

[Answer] I will not answer your question about Arab aid for Iraq. Spare me answering that. As regards the Iraqi economy's ability to continue under circumstances of war, I am confident it has the capacity to continue. We have no other solution. Let one who normally owns three suits have only one and let those who normally eat imported fruit eat Iraqi fruit. This is what we have. These are economic measures we are introducing in the light of our capabilities. It is impossible to do nothing, even if we have to fight with our fingernails. We are defending our honor, homeland and, I venture to say, the entire Arab nation because if Iraq falls, the deluge will engulf everything on Iraq's level and below. I believe that the deluge in this case would be massive.

[Question] If it is not possible to talk about Arab financial aid, is it possible to ask President Saddam Husayn about the Arab attitude toward the Iraq-Iran war?

[Answer] Let me change the question and please accept it from me. What I would like you to ask me, so that there will be no embarrassment for me or for any of the Arabs is: If any other Arab country were engaged in fighting with Iran on the basis of the same principle, how would Iraq behave? I would tell you that we -- army, leadership and people -- would have gone and fought in the battlefield and shared the consequences as well as the financial, economic, human and military resources in order to strengthen the country involved and help it to stand fast. The question is this: Have any of the Arabs done such a thing and of this magnitude? The answer is no. You might say: Your words, Saddam Husayn, are mere propaganda. I tell you we have proof. There was a case when we shared our money, men, army and weapons with the Arabs and endangered our borders when we fought with them.

[Question] You have answered several questions with one reply.

[Answer] By this I wanted to give an all-embracing answer because your magazine is read not only by Arabs. I do not like to talk about the weak points in the Arab situation.

[Question] The Iraqi officials have realized that Sudan is serious in its offer to take part in the war on the side of Iraq. Probably the same thing can be said about North Yemen, whose president visited Iraq a week ago and made important statements. Does Iraq intend to substitute a unified Arab stand with individual Arab initiatives?

[Answer] The Arabs said the things you heard at the Fes summit; they said it at the highest level in support of the resolution [supporting Iraq]. They are supposed to implement the resolution. We have heard and we have been informed that this or that sister country would like to help us. We have said we welcome such help. But in practice nothing has happened.

[Question] Following your meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad at the Fes summit and in the light of what you said about the efforts being made to bring the presidents of Iraq and Syria together in order to resolve the dispute between them, we would like to ask you about the state of Iraqi-Syrian relations.

[Answer] There is no change from their status prior to the Fes summit. We have no hopes they will improve. We have no objection if an opportunity is provided to improve them on the basis of the fundamental principles we made clear to Hafiz al-Asad at the Fes summit.

[Question] Did the meeting at the Fes summit provide an opportunity to improve relations; or was that opportunity lost?

[Answer] No, it did not provide such an opportunity. A committee was set up and we met at a luncheon party at the Fes summit. At the dining table there was a discussion and each of us clarified his views. After that it was agreed that King Fahd 'Abd al-'Aziz will follow up the matter. This was what happened.

[Question] Iraq's initiative at the Baghdad summit, which called for a minimum Arab unanimity, has led to the emergence of a unified Arab stand toward Camp David. Then the natioal declaration in February 1980 tried to go further than that by calling for the abandonment of regional sensitivities between the Arab countries for the sake of peaceful coexistence between the regimes.

In the light of the Arab situation is Iraq thinking of taking a new initiative now?

[Answer] Iraq would be strong if it took an initiative and it would be heeded and its intentions understood if the subject of its initiative concerned its brothers more than it concerned Iraq itself. When it is evident from the initiative that it wants to share with its brothers their sacrifices, then it will come forward with such an initiative. But if we were to put forward any initiative of any kind now while we are not in a position to share their sacrifices, it would be construed as Iraq asking the Arab brothers to make sacrifices for the sake of Iraq. Although this might be legitimate, we would not be inclined toward it. We are more inclined to playing roles in which we offer a service to our brothers, a service in which sacrifice and not benefit is the objective.

[Question] How does Iraq view Article 7 of the Arab peace plan approved at the Fes summit? Does it include recognition of Israel? Does it achieve peace with it or just a truce. Or will it end the war?

[Answer] We have already given our views on the plan. We were party to it and we did not object to it at Fes. Therefore, I would not like the plan to be viewed in parts, but as a whole. I would not like it to be viewed separately from the Arab thinking that was present at the Fes summit. We approve of the plan.

[Question] The plan takes from the Zionist entity land that it is occupying and assumes that it is giving it something in return.

[Answer] The Zionist entity is in itself a state of usurpation and yet, it wants new things to be offerred to it by the Arabs. I have nothing new to add to the stand we proclaimed at the Fes summit.

[Question] You have previously welcomed the Egyptian Army, if it comes to Baghdad, and there were reports about good relations in the field of armament. What is the state of your relations with Egypt? How far do you go in dealings with Egypt, as long as it adheres to the Camp David agreements? Do you believe the Camp David framework enables Egypt to play a military role in order to help an Arab state that is hostile to Camp David and the Zionist entity?

[Answer] I believe the Camp David agreement does not allow Egypt to give military aid of any form in any military conflict in a situation where Israel estimates that it should not do so. What is Egypt waiting for if it wants to help Iraq? The war has entered its third year and no Arab, whether nearby or abroad, has an excuse not to help. Previously, Arab wars used to last a week or two and some people used the excuse that they did not have the opportunity to give help. Now there is enough time, even for someone riding a camel and coming from the depths of Latin America; he has time to get here and blunt scores of swords.

When we talk about the participation of Egypt or others [in the war] we would like every Arab to express a principled Arab stand in this war. The principled Arab stand calls upon an Arab to stand with another Arab when the latter is in difficulty. We wish every Arab to have the honor of participating in this war. As for how to act, this is a matter that concerns them, each according to his conditions, capabilities, and principles.

[Question] How are relations with Egypt?

[Answer] When we need equipment and materiel, we send someone to purchase them. The Egyptian officials constantly show a desire for continued cooperation and express sympathy toward our stand in the face of the Iranian aggression. We appreciate this on their part. As for whether or not they will participate, it is up to them. However, we have something to say to the Arabs: We have left no excuse for any Arab to say that we did not give him the opportunity to fight with us. We gave him several months to think. Whoever did not prepare his army, we gave him the opportunity during the past 3 years to prepare it; whoever had an army that was not capable, we gave him the time to meet the shortage, to train it and retrain it in order to participate; and whoever had no army would have been able to participate with other means. It is only the Iraqis who are now carrying arms and fighting the aggression. There is also a number of young Arab men from this or that country who are doing so on their own initiative. There is also a number of Jordanian volunteers sponsored by their government. They total 1,171 men. This is the first year to give the Arabs throughout the Arab homeland all the opportunities to whoever wants to fight.

[Question] In your introduction to the national declaration in 1980, you warned against the dangers of partitioning in the Arab world. There was a similar warning in the political report issued by the [Ba'th party's] ninth regional congress. Is there detailed information for publication regarding this conspiracy? Exactly what is your information regarding Arab parties contributing in one way or another to implementing this conspiracy? Is Iraq a target of this plan and how?

[Answer] We believe that conspiracies against the Arabs have increased in proportion to the importance of the universal role the Arabs wish to play in drawing up world policies, and to the increasing feeling by Zionism that what it has achieved in the past years at the expense of the Arabs, now needs extraordinary efforts in order to preserve it or to achieve something similar to it.

The conspiracies aim at dividing the Arabs, whether by dividing their stands through creating conflict between one country and another, or with other countries, or through creating division within the same country. Some of the Arabs participate in this conspiracy, while some others stand with these forces [seeking to divide the Arabs], as a matter of tactic or of long-term strategy. We consider standing on Iran's side against Iraq and against the Gulf states as a participation in implementing this plan. One of the most serious situations which facilitates the division of the Arabs and conflict between them, is the present political selfishness stemming from abhorrent self-interest -- a crude sense of contradiction and conflict between slogans and actual facts. I believe it is the duty of the Arabs to encourage the generous one among them as long as he does not see his generosity in giving financial aid as a means to belittle the one lacking in financial ability. It is their duty to encourage him who fights in defense of the Arab nation as long as he does not see himself as being greater than them in relations with others. What is good is self-evident. Some people believe that admitting that a good turn has been done to them is a propaganda or promotion at their own expense. But the opposite is true. The negative effect on me if I deny something good about an Arab state, while the Iraqi people see this good, will be greater than if I were to admit it. I do not think an Arab ruler should, under any circumstances, accept foreign interference under any pretext because this would be illegitimate and would prevent him from coming to his brother's help when fraternal duty calls on him to stand beside him.

In any case, no foreigner should benefit from the differences between our regimes or our views on dealing with life's problems, and develop these differences into a conflict that would facilitate his strategy at the Arab nation's expense. I believe these matters can be easily understood by the Arab brothers in an atmosphere distant from speeches and proclamations. I am speaking here on the basis of my own experience with our brothers, especially after 1974. I have found that this method of thinking fosters understanding, and that reaching results through it is difficult but not impossible. If we as responsible officials do not observe these points, then they, as our strong points, will be used against us, exactly as in wrestling. Financial capabilities will become capabilities for sabotage and instability, as well as for deepening regionalism -- which leads to contradition and, consequently, to strife and fighting.

[Question] Mr President, there remains one point in the topic. There is a conspiracy on a sectarian and factional basis...[sentence left incomplete]

[Answer] Racial, sectarian, and religious; and all the things that give the Arab local characteristics that make him different from the rest of the Arabs. If there are national minorities, they are exploited; if there is religious distinction, it is also exploited; and if there is sectarian distinction within the same religion, it is exploited too in the service of the conspiracy.

[Question] Apropos the talk about partitioning, there is a question regarding Lebanon. Does Iraq see for itself any role in solving the Lebanese crisis? Does it see this crisis as actually on its way to being solved?

[Answer] Yes, Iraq has a role in solving the Lebanese crisis in a fraternal manner that involves no selfish territorial interests. However Iraq has no technical role in solving the Lebanese crisis. This is the role of the superpowers and of the adjacent countries, considering the negative situation inside the country. From a fraternal standpoint, we believe the Lebanese have no sensitivity toward us because they know we have no designs on Lebanon and they would probably welcome any Iraqi ideas without qualms because we did not harm Lebanon nor have we anything to do with what it has suffered. I say we have a role on the basis of this fraternal spirit.

[Question] What is Iraq's stand on the idea of a federation between Jordan and the Palestinians?

[Answer] Any relationship of which the Jordanians and Palestinians are convinced is welcomed by us. Naturally, we bless any step toward unity between two Arab countries.

[Question] A final question: You have become accustomed to surprising the Iraqi soldiers at the front during battles. They fear you are exposing your life to danger. Are you not afraid for your life?

[Answer] There is no one who does not care for his life. My life is not my property. When I believe that it is my duty to take an action that would put the Iraqis in a better position, then I should not hesitate. And when I believe that I can dispense with such action and that it involves a certain danger, then I will substitute another action for it. This is the balance. In any case, life is in the hands of God.

KING HUSAYN ADDRESSES BANQUET IN BEIJING

JN062025 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Dec 82

[King Husayn speech at dinner hosted by Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang on 6 December in Beijing in honor of the seven-member Arab committee -- videotaped]

[Text] It is a pleasure to be among you these days as a unified Arab delegation. We would like to express once again Arab friendship and our constant aspiration for cooperation with you in that which will serve our joint interests.

After having achieved unanimity and solidarity over the FES summit resolutions, the Arabs are determined to pursue their efforts for holding a dialogue with the world's countries and proceeding with their serious action until they regain their rights, liberate their territories that were occupied in 1967, foremost among which is Arab Jerusalem, the symbol of justice and peace, and enable the Palestinian Arab people to determine their fate on their national soil, like all other free people.

The Arabs are eager to remove their countries from the international struggle arena and confront any attempt at hegemony by the powers that covet their resources and interfere in their affairs. They are qualified to shoulder the responsibility of protecting their security and achieving progress and prosperity for their societies and to contribute in serving this world and resuming their cultural role toward all the peoples who believe in freedom and peace.

Your Excellency, our visit to your beloved country comes as an irrefutable proof of the Arab nation's desire to achieve more opportunities for cooperation and its search for expanding the strong relations of friendship which exist between the Arab world and China. I invite this esteemed audience to greet the strong and lasting friendship and the constant cooperation between the Chinese and Arab nations, including the Palestinian Arab people.

Your Excellency, may God grant you, the Chinese people, and this esteemed audience continued good health and happiness.

Long live Chinese-Arab friendship.

AL-QASIM, SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RETURN TO AMMAN

JN072126 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Marwan al-Qasim, Foreign Minister and member of the seven-member Arab committee that was formed by the FES summit, returned to Amman from Beijing this evening. Committee members 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Chedli Klibi, Arab League Secretary General arrived on the same plane with Al-Qasim.

RADIO CRITICIZES ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE PLO

JN061922 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] Some Arab information media have recently reported on the stands of some [Palestinian] resistance factions that do not conform to the PLO stand.

Despite the fact that such reports were disseminated some time ago and have been denied by the factions which supposedly had issued them, the repetition of such reports makes us wonder.

The factions that issued these statements, although they are part of the PLO, have very little influence and by virtue of known connections and circumstances, these factions are finding it very difficult to adopt an independent stand. Whether these statements are real this time or whether they are a blatant attempt to undermine Palestinian national unity, or are part of efforts, which no one ignores, whose objective is to find a replacement for the PLO, all these moves stress that any attempt to disrupt Palestinian ranks or achieve a deviation from the unity of stand and course which the PLO command has been entrusted to adopt, are attempts which serve the course that is hostile to the Palestinian cause and constitute an important support for the enemy's conspiracy of seeking to replace the PLO by the village leagues and bringing forth Palestinian figures who are linked to the schemes of Judaization and occupation, instead of the true and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, who champion their aspirations and hopes.

Perhaps what the Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH has reported, that no PLO meeting was held in Aden and consequently no statement has been issued, clearly shows that there are some parties that are trying to sow discord among the Palestinians or, as some Palestinian officials have stated, that there are some parties that are working to imply that there are differences among the Palestinians with the purpose of weakening the PLO.

The least that we can hope for at this delicate stage is that the Arabs express concern over the unity of the Palestinian stand and over Palestinian national unity.

If military struggle requires the highest level of unity, political action requires a more entrenched and comprehensive unity. Zionist schemes, whose target is to wipe out the identity of the land and inhabitants in the occupied homeland, can only be confronted by alertness and loyalty and by taking into account the supreme interests of the Palestinian people and not the interests of this or that group.

Our people have suffered enough from division and differences and the Palestinian decision has suffered a lot too from the attempts to interfere with it or the attempts to direct it toward courses that are not in the interests of the Palestinians or the Arabs.

SYRIAN, MAURITANIAN DELEGATIONS ARRIVE IN AMMAN

JN041934 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Dr Salim Yasin, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, arrived in Amman via Ar-Ramtha today, heading a Syrian economic delegation that will participate in the 39th session of the Arab economic unity council which begins its meeting in Amman tomorrow.

The delegation was welcomed at the Ar-Ramtha border by the assistant secretary general of the Arab economic unity council and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman.

Mohamed Mahmoud, the ambassador of Mauritanian in Damascus, also arrived in Amman via Ar-Ramtha to head his country's delegation to the meeting.

EGYPT'S GHALI ARRIVES IN BEIRUT 8 DECEMBER

NC081126 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, arrived in Beirut today to convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Immediately upon the arrival of the two Egyptian envoys, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met with them.

Following the meeting, Dr Butrus Ghali made a statement in which he said the purpose of his visit is to convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to the president of the Lebanese Republic and to hold consultations with the political leadership in Lebanon in order to affirm Egypt's solidarity with Lebanese Government.

Later, they went to the Lebanese Presidential Palace. Informed official sources have said the Presidential Palace immediately summoned Lebanese political leaders to participate in the Egyptian-Lebanese talks. Among those leaders are former Lebanese President Camille Sham'un and former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam. The Egyptian envoys are scheduled to meet with senior Lebanese officials. It is worth noting that this is the first official visit of an Egyptian delegation to Lebanon since 1977.

AL-JUMAYYIL MEETS WITH SALIM, LIBYAN OFFICIALS

NC071101 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil met with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim before his departure for London, Paris, and Washington.

Later, President al-Jumayyil received Salih ad-Duruqi, Libyan brotherhood bureau secretary, and bureau member 'Abd al-Qadir Ghuqah.

After the meeting, Ad-Duruqi said: We conveyed a verbal message from Libyan chief of state Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to President al-Jumayyil in which he expressed his greetings and appreciation, and Libya's readiness to support Lebanon and help President al-Jumayyil surmount the present ordeal.

Answering a question, Ad-Duruqi said: I can affirm that relations between Libya and Lebanon are very strong and fraternal. We will soon witness an improvement in these relations.

MINISTER SALIM MAKES STATEMENT, LEAVES FOR UK

NC071331 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Pending new developments in the U.S. stance, President al-Jumayyil met with Ghassan Tuwayni, the official in charge of coordinating the withdrawal negotiations among the various sides. He reviewed the situation with him from the angle of the mission which the former Lebanese delegate to the United Nations is assuming, the results of the current contacts, and what steps can possibly be taken in the coming days in light of the contacts that Foreign Minister Salim will be conducting.

Before his departure, Minister Salim answered a question at the airport on the results he expects from his tour by saying: When I return from this trip, I will speak about it and about the results. However, suffice it to say that I will visit London, Paris, and Washington and that I will meet with officials in these capitals, with Prime Minister Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Francis Pym. In London I will also meet with all officials responsible for Middle East questions in the government and in Parliament. I will hold contacts with Minister Cheysson in Paris. I will meet with the Lebanese ambassadors accredited to the European capitals and will discuss with them in detail Lebanon's new foreign policy and the principles upon which this policy is based.

Minister Salim was asked: Are you carrying specific proposals with you connected with the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon?

He answered: I will also visit Washington, where I will have talks with officials on all Middle East questions, particularly the Lebanese question. I will also meet with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. Naturally, Lebanon has its view and we have proposals. We have now reached some sort of an impasse, and we do not want to remain in this impasse. We want to move and move quickly. Therefore, we will tackle these matters. On my return on 17 December, I will speak about the results of my trip, which, God willing, will be positive.

'CIRCLES' ON U.S. MOVES TO RESOLVE CONFLICT

NC071250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil met with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim before his departure at noon today on a visit to Britain, France, and the United States for talks in the three capitals regarding the situation in Lebanon and their attitude toward the request for increasing the multinational force.

Minister Salim's tour comes at a time when Lebanon and the Arab states are watching to see what the U.S. stance will be in the coming days after the moral commitments made by the U.S. Administration to Lebanon to move from resolving the Lebanon crisis to resolving the problem in the area.

Lebanese political circles believe that it would be difficult for the U.S. Administration to admit a breakdown in its commitments to Lebanon because this would mean that whatever commitment it may make at the area level, is also liable to break down. The Arab wagering on the United States -- now according to diplomatic circles in Beirut -- is wagering that the United States is capable of imposing a compromise. The breakdown after the compromises in Lebanon to the Arab states means that for the United States there is no solution but the Israeli solution. Therefore, Lebanon is watching for an effective U.S. move after President Reagan meets with envoy Philip Habib and his aide, Mr Draper, the results of which will become apparent in the field before the end of this year.

AL-WAZZAN DISCUSSES DISPATCH OF ARMY TO MOUNTAIN

NC071857 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1645 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] In response to parliamentary demands for dispatching the army to the mountain area, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has affirmed that the army is being prepared to enter all areas, but there are conditions involved. We cannot take any more risks, he said.

The prime minister said the president of the republic is dealing with this matter. He is not dealing with it through guidance only, but with an almost daily participation and continuous hard work in order to end this terrible situation threatening us in the mountain.

Al-Wazzan added: The army must enter all areas, and we are preparing it for this mission. The army has been preparing to enter the mountain area along with the internal security forces. However, the entry of the army into any area entails certain conditions that will enable us to succeed, because we cannot take any more risks in this sphere.

Al-Wazzan stressed that efforts are continuing to deal with the basic cause of the problem. He pointed out that he briefed the U.S. side on the situation and took upon himself the responsibility to assist in this matter.

He said: We insist on the withdrawal of Israeli forces in order to enable the Lebanese Army to assume its responsibilities without falling into the trap of any side.

The Chamber of Deputies agreed to hold a special session to discuss dispatching the army to the mountain, but no date has been set for it.

TENSION IN 'ALAYH; BLASTS IN TRIPOLI, AL-BIQA'

NC072035 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The latest security reports say that an atmosphere of tension has returned to 'Alayh, Tripoli, and Al-Biqa' following the renewal of violence and explosions. In 'Alayh, at 1430 today, armed men opened fire on a Range Rover, killing two people and injuring another. Following this incident, tension prevailed in the area, while the Israeli forces cut off the 'Alayh circle, where the incident occurred.

In the Ash-Shuf area, it seems that the situation has improved relatively this afternoon, following the success of the contacts and efforts which resulted in the exchange at 1500 by both parties of people who were seized 2 days ago in Kafr Him, Dayr, al-Qamar, and hammana. Twelve people were released in the Amir Amin's palace in Bayt ad-Din.

In Al-Biqa', a boobytrapped car exploded at 1315 in Barr Ilyas, on the Shtawrak-Damascus highway, killing two people and injuring a number of others. A Mercedes truck with a Kuwaiti license plate was hit by the explosion and its two Syrian drivers, Muhammad Yasin and Yasin 'Abd al-Ghani Shunumi, were killed immediately.

In Tripoli, at 1915 today, an explosive device went off in front of a party headquarters on Ath-Thaqafah street. Preliminary reports say that a number of people were killed or injured in addition to heavy damage to nearby houses. Reports also say that tension has returned to the At-Tabbanah area, where fire was exchanged between the As-Sayyidah quarter and Al-Barraniayh quarter. The exchange of fire continued for 2 hours and then stopped.

Further on Clashes

NC081015 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] At this time, the security reports have not indicated any new developments in the situation in the mountain, either in Ash-Shuf or in 'Alayh.

It was reported that at 0200 the kidnapped persons were released in 'Alayh and that afterward the Israeli force withdrew from the town's square.

In Tripoli, a state of caution prevails in At-Tabbanah and Ba'il Muhsin localities as a result of armed manifestations and sporadic exchanges of gunfire. Security sources indicated that the situation became tense after 0800 today when a shell fell in the At-Tabbanah locality, followed by bursts of fire. Consequently, businesses and schools in the areas of tension in Al-Qurbah closed while life in other quarters of the city is normal.

It was learned from security sources that ysterday's explosion near the Socialist Progressive Party office in Ath-Thaqafah locality in Tripoli killed 2 persons and wounded 13 others. It was reported that 10 businesses and 8 cars were damaged. The TNT charge was estimated to weigh 30 kg.

ARMY UNIT CLASHES WITH ISRAELIS IN BEIRUT 8 DEC

NC081144 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] We have just received the following report: At 1245 today, an Israeli jeep and an ambulance tried to cross the private road of the Ministry of Defense in Al-Yarzi. The Lebanese guards prevented them from doing so. The Israeli personnel, however, did not obey orders. This forced the guards to fire. Immediately afterward, a clash ensued, during which two Lebanese Army personnel and one Israeli soldier were wounded. Exchanges of gunfire lasted for 1/4 hour. The atmosphere is still tense. The Israelis cut off the road leading to Al-Jumhur area near the (Siyal) factory.

ISRAELIS REPORTEDLY SEAL OFF SIDON 8 DECEMBER

NC081020 Paris AFP in English 0955 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 9 (AFP) -- Israeli units sealed off large sectors of the coastal town of Sidon today in a search for arms and suspect persons, correspondents in the region said.

The search came four days after Israeli soldiers backed by militia from Lebanese dissident Major Sa'd Haddad arrested several people in Sidon's ancient center.

According to reports circulating in the city, located 40 kms south of Beirut, the search and arrests followed the discovery of the bodies of three Israeli soldiers near there.

COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION PAYS VISIT TO FRANCE

For Paris press reportage on the visit to France by the Lebanese Communist Party delegation headed by Secretary General Georges Hawi, including talks with French Communist Party, PCF, Secretary General Georges Marchais and other leading members of the PCF on the Middle East and international situation, see the France section of the 8 December Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

KHADDAM RETURNS HOME FROM PRC 7 DECEMBER

JN080730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, returned to Damascus from the PRC yesterday evening after participating in the Arab seven-member committee's visit to explain the Fes summit resolutions to the permanent UN Security Council member states.

Khaddam stated yesterday that the Arab seven-member committee will meet shortly to assess the results of its contacts and submit a detailed report to the Arab countries. In a statement during the Arab seven-member committee's stopover in Abu Dhabi, Khaddam said that the committee was surprised by the British Government's attitude toward its mission. He added that this British attitude was neither understood nor acceptable, because it was the first time that the British had set conditions about receiving a delegation formed by an Arab summit. Khaddam said he hopes that contacts with Britain will lead the British Government to reconsider its attitude, adding that this subject will be handled through political channels.

Khaddam said that there is no reason to call for an Arab summit on the results of the committee's contacts since there are no new developments.

QADDURAH RECEIVES ROMANIAN OFFICIAL, MESSAGE

JN071959 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Damascus, 7 Dec (SANA) -- 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, today received Nicolae Mantz, assistant agriculture minister in Romania.

The Romanian official handed Qaddurah a message from Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu to Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm. Qaddurah and Mantz then reviewed bilateral economic relations, particularly in the field of agriculture.

DAMASCUS PALESTINE BROADCAST ON PLO DIFFERENCES

JN070800 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Palestine broadcast: unattributed commentary]

[Text] From an objective analysis of the political moves that preceded and accompanied the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, we can conclude that there is an intensive and well-studied attempt to destroy the PLO in the following three ways: exhausting its active forces, as attempted by the Zionist invasion of Lebanon; destroying its national unity in order to weaken its political power, as attempted by the U.S. diplomatic maneuvers and those reactionary maneuvers directed by Washington; and expropriating its legitimate status as the Palestinian people's sole representative by forcing it to authorize another side to speak on its behalf and by striking at its national unity, exposing it to the danger of division.

The attempts being made by Washington and its agents to achieve this goal are based on the following factors, which are considered a good basis for the success of this conspiratorial maneuver:

1. The PLO, as holder of the national Palestinian action in general, includes various political trends ranging from right to left and from moderate to extreme. Therefore, dragging the rightwing into bargaining positions will broaden the gap with the leftwing. Dragging moderates into bargaining positions will broaden the gap with hardliners or *extremists. Thus, relations* among the various Palestinian forces and factions are disrupted in an attempt to destroy the rightist and leftist factions of the Resistance as well as the body incorporating them at the same time.

2. Since 1973 in particular, the Palestinian arena has been witnessing differences between two political tends. One trend completely rejects settlement in part and parcel or stipulates conditions for it; the second tends to continue political maneuvers along the line of a settlement, showing increasing flexibility or increasing readiness to make concessions for the sake of reaching a solution. The reactionary, imperialist plot aims at widening the gap between those two trends so that eventually any attempts to reconcile them will become impossible.

3. Some Palestinians feel that the Resistance movement's loss of a major and important part of its positions in Lebanon means that armed struggle has become useless. Therefore, they are seeking any alternative to armed struggle, and maneuvering in this case aims at deepening this trend and dragging it toward divesting it from the remaining components of the possible continuation of armed struggle. Once armed struggle has been robbed of its combat and effective role it will be easier to get rid of it.

It is our duty in the Palestinian arena to be alert to these facts and avoid falling into the traps set for us with the aim of destroying the fruits of our bitter struggle and circumventing the possibilities of continuing this struggle.

'TENSE PERIOD' EXPECTED IN U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS

TA071536 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Dec 82 pp 1, 15

[Report from Washington by Refa'el Mann -- date not given]

[Excerpt] If there is no change in the near future in Israel's positions regarding the evacuation of its forces from Lebanon and President Reagan's peace initiative, a "very tense period" is to be expected in U.S.-Israeli relations. This was assessed yesterday by U.S. White House and State Department officials. According to a knowledgeable U.S. source, "Israel should not make a mistake in understanding the degree of President Reagan's 'personal' dissatisfaction with Israel's positions recently."

Another official told the MA'ARIV correspondent that "President Reagan is very disappointed" with Israel's positions. He explained that it was against this background that the administration's vigorous activity against the increased aid to Israel should be seen. Reagan's disappointment, so it is explained, springs both from what appears in Washington to be Israeli "intransigence" about holding the talks with Lebanon in Jerusalem, and also from the continued rejection of President Reagan's peace initiative.

These officials also emphasized, however, that the administration was not speaking about a cut in the aid to Israel, but about opposition to Congress increasing it beyond the sum asked for by the administration.

HARIF: HABIB RETURNING HOME 'EMPTY-HANDED'

TA031459 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Dec 82 p 14

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Philip Habib, Who Came 'To Unravel the Knot' in Lebanon and Do It 'Quickly' Is Returning Empty-handed"]

[Text] Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy, arrived in Israel with a bang as the redeemer and savior of the negotiations on the security arrangements in Lebanon that would enable the withdrawal of "all foreign forces" and, is returning in a whisper.

His specific mission, as he himself defined it, was to "unravel the knot," and the president ordered him -- and he deems fit to reiterate this time and again before the prime minister -- to do it quickly: "The president simply cannot begin to understand why it must take 8 weeks to get down to negotiations...."

However, even 9 weeks later, and following the personal intervention of the experienced Philip Habib "on behalf of the president," it is still impossible to arrive at negotiations with Lebanon. And, who knows how many more weeks it will take to start the negotiations, not to mention the innumerable weeks it will take to complete them with the pullout of all the foreign forces from Lebanon.

It would appear that Habib's remark that President Reagan "cannot begin to understand" why it should take so long to start negotiations, should not be taken at face value. There is a great deal of pretense in this entire political game revolving around the arrangements in Lebanon. Rubbing our noses with "on the president's behalf" or another of Habib's utterances -- which was also repeated by Secretary of State Shultz himself -- that "the president and the secretary of state are closely following efforts for opening the talks (between Israel and Lebanon)" -- these alone will not be enough to turn the wheels of the negotiations.

The real reason for the delay supposedly lies in the fact that the United States and Israel have for the time being not reached full understanding regarding the substance of the security arrangement. Although Shultz gave Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir the feeling that the United States actually accepts the Israeli plan for an arrangement -- which was presented simultaneously in Washington and Beirut -- the United States ultimately did not evince practical readiness to help Israel and Lebanon base the arrangements on the principles of the Israeli plan. All Israel was told was: Try to get the maximum you can (this mainly referred to the substance of the normalization) and whatever you get from Lebanon will also be acceptable to us. Apparently, this is not enough. He who wants to reach an arrangement soon (envoy Habib predicted a few weeks ago that the foreign forces would start leaving Lebanon "by the end of the year," which, is already this month) must recognize the real factors hindering the pace of the negotiations and, after all, these do not pertain to the futile argument over the level and venue of the talks.

One may dare say that even after the Cabinet reiterated its decision this week that negotiations with Lebanon should only be held in Jerusalem and Beirut this should not be regarded as an insurmountable obstacle. In other words, were agreement to be reached regarding the other substantial items, this "obstacle" could be bypassed.

Hence, had Habib gone to the prime minister and started from the end [as published] and spoken to him -- as indeed he did on another matter -- on behalf of the president, and had he tried to arrive at an understanding about the substance of the arrangement rather than on how to overcome "the two procedural points," the level and venue of the talks, then many, or perhaps all, the procedural points would have been solved easily. However, Habib came to inform the prime minister that he had reached an understanding with Lebanon and that in his opinion, it would already be possible to get down to negotiations. The "understanding" was that the talks would not be of a military, but rather of a civilian nature, as Israel wishes; they would not be at the ministerial level but on the level of "political officials" and they would not be held at the capitals of Jerusalem and Beirut proper, but nearby. Assuming that this were acceptable to Israel, what would happen then?...

Habib said nothing about this and Begin replied to him: All right, Mr Habib, I will present your proposals to the Cabinet....

Habib continued to "play": I certainly understand this... We have got until Sunday....

Envoy Habib had just one more question: In the Cabinet, will you support the proposal I have submitted to you?

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who attended the meeting, vehemently observed: No.

Begin did not say what he would present at the Cabinet session. He ignored Habib's question and said: I will present your proposal in detail the way you presented it to me....

The rest is known: In its session on Sunday, the Cabinet discussed Habib's proposal and passed a resolution based on the prime minister's briefing that negotiations with Lebanon be conducted with "authorized civilian representatives" in Beirut and Jerusalem.

A considerable number of ministers thought that flexibility should be evinced on the procedural questions and were thus actually inclined to accept Habib's proposal. Ultimately, the prime minister's proposal was acepted unanimously. However, this did not prevent a mysterious hand -- or better still, a "mysterious mouth" who kept mum during the Cabinet session -- to proclaim after the Cabinet meeting that 10 ministers had been in favor of a "flexible position" (namely, that they had been willing to accept Habib's proposal for beginning negotiations with Lebanon). Did this man not feel that he was offending 10 ministers, including himself? If this is what 10 ministers thought, how come the prime minister's concluding statement was accepted unanimously?...

Begin believes that as far as the level of the talks is concerned, there is no need to obstinately insist that the delegations be headed by ministers. It would be sufficient for the Lebanese delegation's talks with Israel to be headed by "Amin's representative," as Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir remarked at the Cabinet meeting (this is what Begin had in mind when he formulated the Cabinet decision that the talks be conducted by "authorized civilian representatives."). As for the venue of the talks, Begin said: "We cannot be forced to partake in a boycott of our capital."

The prime minister believes that he is not asking Lebanon for something it cannot give. Not only did As-Sadat come to Jerusalem, but also the joint Egyptian-Israeli political committee began its discussions in Jerusalem. There were various contacts with the Egyptians in Jerusalem, although most discussions were held outside Jerusalem. Had the Lebanese not insisted on absolutely ruling out Jerusalem as a venue for the talks, a reasonable arrangement could have been found: for instance, that the opening ceremony of the talks take place in Beirut and Jerusalem, and the following working sessions be held elsewhere until the time comes to sign an agreement, at which point they would go back to Jerusalem and Beirut for the signing. However, once Jerusalem has been categorically ruled out of the question as a venue for the talks, the prime minister thought that the Cabinet should not make any concessions on this question. Supporting this position, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, already before Habib's arrival, told Ambassador Morris Draper: You Americans are coming to Jerusalem. Does this mean that you may have changed your positions about the status of Jerusalem? Are we asking Lebanon to change its position on the question of Jerusalem? Still, it is inconceivable that they should demand from us to conduct negotiations anywhere except in Jerusalem.

Referring to the nature of the arrangement with Lebanon, a staunch American friend of Israel said that it should firmly insist on each and every detail, be it on the question of the security arrangements that would secure Israel against any attack from Lebanese territory after the pullout of its forces, or on the question of the absolute ousting of the Syrians and the PLO. As for the other, mainly symbolic, issues such as the venue of the talks, the Americans obviously cannot "grasp the nuances" of this symbolism. In this respect, the man said, Americans are simply "obtuse."

It seems that the man, who is very familiar with the American thinking process, was right. Therefore, we dared say that after all, even though the Cabinet reiterated its decision this week, that negotiations with Lebanon should take place in Jerusalem and Beirut and the implied impression that it was a prerequisite -- either the negotiations are conducted in the two capitals or not at all -- the decision should not be regarded as final.

From the reaction of various Cabinet ministers, one could gain the impression that they were not sufficiently familiar with the entire process, both overt and covert. It seems that the emerging situation is more encouraging that it would appear on the face of it.

Can an understanding with Lebanon be reached soon? Certainly, yes. A measure of patience and understanding of the complex and delicate processes that Amin al-Jumayyil's regime must experience is called for.

Suffice to mention a few of his problems as they have been emerging from his unformulated policy. Out of the need not to shake the existent sectarian balance, he must rely on the traditional leadership of the various sects in Lebanon (this means that sometimes he is actually held prisoner by men the like of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan). He needs the pullout of the terrorist fighters from Lebanon in order to stabilize his regime and not just because this is Israel's condition for pulling its forces out of Lebanon. However, achieving this goal is not enough for him. He must also set up supervision methods that would enable him to control the large civilian Palestinian population which would remain in Lebanon.

He wants the pullout of the Syrian and Israeli forces from Lebanon, but to regain Lebanon's full independence, he does not have an efficient army to help him impose order in this torn country. Therefore, he must rely on the United States as the main foreign force in the framework of the multinational force. In order to get some economic benefit from the Arab world, he sees himself compelled to tighten his relations with conservative Arab states such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco and define Lebanon as "part of the Arab world." However, this does not fit very well with the conception of the various "Bashirs" who aspire to a different Lebanon, even in what pertains to the attitude toward Israel.

From souces close to Amin, it would be implied that he is interested in arrangements with Israel that would bring about the pullout of its forces from Lebanon, without which he would not be able to attain the pullout of Syria and the PLO. On this point, he is facing a dilemma: Israel wants "peaceful relations," if not formal peace, as a condition for the evacuation of its forces. If he fulfills Israel's request, he would not have the cooperation of his Muslims who are very influential in Lebanon. Therefore, all that can be expected from the silent contacts currently underway between Lebanon and Israel is a gradual development of relations between the two countries and, as far as Amin is concerned, this means "informal normalization."

Israel reveals understanding toward Amin on this question and it believes that if he does display his willingness to arrive at an arrangement with Israel based on the Israeli plan -- which, in principle, is also acceptable to the United States -- a satisfactory formula to both sides may certainly be found.

However, it must also be clear to the Lebanese president that, notwithstanding our understanding of his delicate situation, which requires him to control the process of developing relations between the two countries in order not to overly infuriate the Muslims, whose support he needs, there are things on which Israel cannot give up. First and foremost of these is the security arrangement putting an end to the state of war between Lebanon and Israel, which has not yet been abolished formally, and laying the foundation for a relationship whose components will prevent the creation of an infrastructure in Lebanon that would endanger the peace of the Galilee and Israel.

It is a fact that in the past, the Lebanese Givernment allowed the PLO to build an infrastructure in Lebanon to act against Israel, and it "legally" summoned Syria to take over its capital. In other words, an agreement on security arrangements between Lebanon and Israel must include safety valves against developments that are currently hard to predict.

This is why Israel obstinately insists that the security arrangements be anchored in a political agreement between it and Lebanon. Moreover, any agreement of this kind would not only require the pullout of foreign forces from Lebanon but would also call for "Lebanon's demilitarization of foreign forces, except those agreed upon," as stated in the Israeli plan submitted to the United States and Lebanon. Therefore, Lebanon intends to demand that, along with the agreement with Lebanon, a document of understanding be signed with the United States on the eve of the PLO's withdrawal within the framework of the evacuation of the foreign forces from Lebanon, which would include an unambiguous U.S. undertaking to supervise the implementation of the aforementioned demilitarization and to establish a consulting apparatus in case the demilitarization agreement is violated.

If the United States indeed agrees with Israel that the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon entitles it to arrangements which would ensure its security even if a new civil war occurs or foreign forces intervene in Lebanon -- this applies mainly to the security belt within the 45-to 50-km area -- it must stand by Israel. If it supports Israel's demand, as stated in its plan, that "terrorist organizations and gangs intending to act against Israel, and foreign forces unacceptable to Israel never exist in this area," then it will not be too difficult to overcome "procedural" problems such as those mentioned by Philip Habib. Whoever wants a serious security arrangement will obviously agree that technological means, such as early warning stations, are required in Lebanon to adequately replace the IDF's presence in southern Lebanon. Lebanon may describe the agreement as an interim arrangement without specifying its duration (Israel demands that it be stated that this arrangement would be in effect "until a peace treaty is signed between Israel and Lebanon"), but it is inconceivable that Israel should withdraw without a proper arrangement.

There is no doubt that if Habib had pursued the substantive points and had stopped dwelling on "procedural distinctions" his mission "on behalf of the President" would have proved successful. Now, the U.S. envoy will be going back to the United States empty-handed.

At the Cabinet session on Sunday, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon claimed that the real reason for the stalemate on the question of Lebanon was Washington's calculated position. Sharon believes the United States wants to exploit Lebanon to make political gains in the Arab world, particularly for its attempts to reach an understanding with the PLO and Jordan to realize the Reagan plan.

Hence the urgency with which the United States regards the Lebanon issue. As long as it does not deal with the situation in Lebanon, it will be difficult for it to deal with the Reagan plan. It is no coincidence that simultaneously with its efforts to bring about an arrangement in Lebanon, Washington is working hard to reach an understanding with Jordan and the PLO. And, it is no coincidence that an "angel," personified by Philip Habib, is carrying out both missions. This only goes to show that one thing depends on the other.

When Habib left for Cairo he probably did not have only Lebanon in mind. Egypt's contribution to unraveling the knot in Lebanon is marginal. In contrast, Cairo plays a central role in the dialogue Washington has been conducting with the PLO. This is becoming a burning matter: without the PLO's blessing, Jordan is not ready to join negotiations on the autonomy as the first stage toward implementing the Reagan plan. King Husayn is scheduled to arrive in Washington for talks with President Reagan and if this time, too, he says he will not be joining the talks with Israel and Egypt, the administration will be facing a dead end. What will happen to the Reagan plan? More generally, what will happen to Shultz' entire Middle East policy?

Even those unwilling to accept the thesis Sharon raised at the Cabinet meeting about the link between Lebanon and the Reagan plan in the U.S. mind cannot simply rule it out. The link is not the envoy who deals with both issues as if they were one, but Washington's calculations about how each move in Lebanon would affect Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and ... the PLO. Therefore, both matters are certainly linked...

Can this knot be unravelled?

With all due respect to envoy Habib, this is apparently not within his power. To unravel it, a dialogue on a higher level is required, between President Reagan and Prime Minister Begin.

Talk about this meeting necessarily creates the link between the Lebanese affair and the plan bearing the President's name. Whatever is not attained in the Reagan-Begin talk as part of the fundamental understanding between the two countries following the period of confrontations, which has characterized Washington-Jerusalem relations in the last few months, will also not be attained by Draper, Fairbanks, or Habib...

In a letter Reagan sent recently to Begin stating that the prime minister would "always be a welcome guest in Washington" (the exact date of the meeting at the beginning of February, has yet to be set) he uses a rare epilogue. Reagan does not end his personal letter "to the prime minister" with the usual "sincerely yours" or "friendly yours" but writes "Your friend," Ron.

If these signs mean anything, it will be tested in the personal talks between the two men. Words, when not coupled with deeds, certainly do not have any significance.

From what is known about the content of the contacts between the PLO and Jordan -- which the United States knows about and to which it is an indirect partner -- one should not assume that 'Arafat and Husayn will reach an understanding enabling Husayn to say "yes" to Reagan's invitation to join the autonomy talks.

Even if as a result of the Lebanon war, in which the PLO's strength was devastated, 'Arafat agrees to take embrace under the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations with Israel, it should not be assumed that 'Arafat will agree to grant the king his power of attorney to negotiate on his behalf. Why? Because the "minimum" 'Arafat would agree to is that an independent Palestinian entity be established in the West Bank that will be linked to Jordan through a confederation. In other words, an entity that would have its own flag and whose citizens would carry a Palestinian rather than Jordanian passport. Without these two attributes -- a flag and passports -- 'Arafat would not be able to prove that the PLO's lengthy fight achieved its goal.

After the Rabat conference, which granted him the exclusive right to speak on behalf of the Palestinians, would 'Arafat forego this privilege in favor of Husayn?

And, would Husayn agree to this "minimum" of the PLO that means a Palestinian state alongside Jordan? No, he knows perfectly well what the meaning of such a "state," when it is recognized by most countries in the world, would be.

Since Begin would be seeing Reagan after Husayn, what would the U.S. President be able to tell the Israeli prime minister? That he should accept... the Reagan plan, the plan that has in fact been rejected by Husayn and 'Arafat?...

In this respect, too, the prime minister's upcoming visit to the White House should not be judged by normal criteria. Neither of the central issues are routine: not Lebanon in the aftermath of the "Peace for Galilee operation, and not the Reagan plan.

Therefore, it is strange that precisely the Cabinet members ("the 10 ministers") who are supposedly familiar with the situation should indulge in routine thinking, as if the real question were where and by whom negotiations with Lebanon should be conducted -- some of whose members apparently did not grasp its real significance... -- did not block any way to a dialogue. Its chief significance is that it did away with routine, mainly to compel the United States to talk with Israel on substance rather than on "procedures." All Begin did was to pay Habib -- who wanted to know in advance whether the prime minister would support his "proposal" -- with the same coin.

Only in the next few days will we know whether the Americans took the hint, whether they come to Israel to persuade it to speak with "political officials" or whether they come to tell us what may be discussed with those officials. If this "what" is provided by Israel, then the parties will get to sign an agreement in Beirut and Jerusalem, without paying any attention to the venues of the negotiations between them.

It is hard to think of a wise diplomat not grasping this "simple" fact. He probably understood it very well, and if he is now going back to Washington, it is only to tell his superiors that he needs new "instructions." Otherwise, Lebanon will have to wait until the Begin-Reagan meeting.

DAVAR COMMENTARY ON U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS

TA071620 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Dec 82 p 9

[Commentary by Tuvya Mendelson: "Israel-U.S. Relations Are Close to the Bone"]

[Text] After the Government of Israel had achieved, or was almost, almost on the point of achieving, all the victories and goals it had intended to achieve in Lebanon, one objective that had still not been completely destroyed was left; one which the defense minister, despite his desperate attempts; had not yet succeeded in destroying: the basic friendship between Israel and the United States. But have no fear. It will not be long before that objective, too, will be met.

The tension, the differences of opinion, the deterioration, and all the other terms we are using today to describe relations between the two countries, have ceased being a sort of passing crisis. The change will be substantive and basic, and the fabric of the special relations between the United States and Israel will crumble in the hands of our policymakers.

It is appalling how the government, which reminds us morning and evening that the United States is our faithful friend; the government whose foreign minister speaks about "strategic partnership" and begs to be insulted by the great friend who is opposed to increasing aid to us; the government which is determining that this opposition is an "unfriendly act"; that same government is succeeding in methodically dripping down to public opinion the feeling that the great friend across the ocean is enemy No one of the State of Israel.

Anyone who read, among other things, the article by my friend Hagay Eshed, "Reagan Against Reagan," (3 December), will certainly have already begun to be convinced that this terrible friend of ours is indeed bringing us dangers we had not imagined. Uncle Sam's right hand, Eshed writes, does not know what his left hand is doing, and from this we can somewhat conclude that the Government of Israel is still succeeding in distinguishing between its right hand and its left. Whoever is still capable of putting any trust in this government's ability to distinguish should not be surprised if one day he finds out that our great friend is giving up the honor and there are not one, but two competitors for the great friendship for Israel: Zaire and Honduras.

However, what is most shocking is that in this government, whose members include no few and perhaps even a majority of ministers who are not satisfied with the policy they themselves are taking, there is not a single man who is succeeding in influencing and changing the direction the current policy is taking. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has spoken out several times over the last few months against moving toward a direct, sharp confrontation with the United States. Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori holds a similar view, and Minister of Energy Yitzhaq Mada'i, at the last Cabinet session, took a firm stand -- in his special way, which takes even his avowed opponents by surprise -- against Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's reaction to the administration's position on the question of the increase in economic aid to Israel. Nevertheless, the policy which the government, in the final analysis, is taking is a synthesis between Ari'el Sharon's primitive formulations and Menahem Begin's more subtle rhetoric.

Thus, a government, most of whose members are dying to see the IDF already out of Lebanon, most of whose members would like to see the negotiations at their peak, is turning procedural matters into substantive issues; is missing the chance of getting out of the complications ("preliminary talks") and, along with this, is demanding talks on a ministerial level at the first stage, and is getting itself into situations from which there is only one embarrassing way out: a retreat from the previous positions.

In any case, anyone who is convinced of the correctness of the defense minister's claim that the United States is delaying the negotiations in Lebanon because it fears that if the problem of Lebanon is not solved, it will be impossible to bring Israel into the discussions for a resumption of autonomy talks, against the background of President Reagan's plan -- anyone who accepts this assumption is, in any case, incapable of correctly reading the interpretation Washington gives to this: It is Israel that is holding up a solution to the problem of Lebanon, for exactly the same reason, as part of a policy called, in our area -- "gaining time." That is to say, it is in order to put off the unavoidable -- a resumption of the autonomy talks and the possible incorporation of Jordan in the peace process. The interpretation being given to the administration's opposition to increasing aid is also basically mistaken, and what is even graver, it is misleading and continuing to jeopardize our relations with the United States.

On the one hand, various political elements in Jerusalem are telling us that the administration has been defeated, that the White House and the State Department were completely surprised to discover that there is still support for Israel in Congress. It is not worth emphasizing immediately: It is not worth Israel's building castles in Spain in hopes on the "great support" of the Congress. The erosion in both houses of Congress is noticeable and significant, and the decision to increase the aid should also be regarded within the framework of the U.S. political game, the game between the administration and Capitol Hill.

On the other hand, as political elements evaluate, there are attempts to convince the Israeli public that this is really how matters stand -- there is no connection between the administration's position on the aid and the deadlock in the negotiations over Lebanon, the Israeli intransigence, the tensions that have been created over the last few months, and the appreciable fatigue in Washington over the uncompromising Israeli positions.

The source of the administration's opposition to the increase in aid, people are explaining, could have been discovered the day George Shultz entered the State Department instead of Alexander Haig -- as though there had been no war in Lebanon, as though the United States had not felt like somebody Israel was deluding on the matter of the goals of the campaign that began as "Peace for Galilee," as though there had been no tensions around the siege of Beirut and the air force bombing, and all the other events and developments that made relations between the two countries more difficult. Everything happening today in Israeli-U.S. relations, they explain to us, is not a function of all this, but of George Shultz who, without any connection with the last few months, decided to adopt a new policy toward Israel, the main point of which is moving away from us and coming closer to the Arab countries -- a policy that will, in the end, be accompanied by recognition of the PLO, too. By the way, certain circles are emphasizing the distinction between President Ronald Reagan and his secretary of state, the hint being clear: The President is being led along a mistaken path by the secretary of state.

The administration's opposition to increasing the aid is no coincidence. This is an expression of the dissatisfaction and helplessness of the administration faced with the prime minister's intransigent and uncompromising stands. Jerusalem's reaction, if it is not moderated, will increase the damage. Even now there are people in Jerusalem and Washington who think the blow to Israeli-U.S. relations goes beyond the upper layers of these relations, and is beginning to penetrate deeper, to reach the bone itself, the basis upon which these relations are founded.

It is a pity that the administration itself is helpless, trying to move Menahem Begin from his positions by means of several million dollars. From the current administration's experience with the Government of Israel, Washington should have learned that threats of this type will move Begin to a reaction the opposite of what the administration expects. Menahem Begin, so it appears, knows how to react to a stick. He finds it difficult to eat the carrot.

PAPER NOTES 'ANTI-ISRAELI' DIRECTION OF U.S. POLICY

TA071336 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Dec 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Shultz Is Not To Blame"]

[Text] The prevalent view in Jerusalem that the "engine" carrying President Reagan in an anti-Israeli direction is Secretary of State Shultz is a correct one.

The reference is to a long-time friend of the Arabs who, when moving from his private affairs to the State Department in Washington, concealed his genuine views for some time until people stopped criticizing him for his political one-sidedness; and now that the criticism has indeed lessened, he has decided to reveal his face as the vigorous defender of the Arabs.

And he is in good company. Britain's previous foreign secretary, Lord Carrington, and his heir in the British Foreign Office, Pym, pulled and are pulling their prime minister over to the anti-Israeli side; and French Foreign Minister Cheysson is also dragging his president, Mitterrand, to the anti-Israeli side, but this does not mean they are the only people responsible for the policies being pursued by their countries. Here is the proof: When German Chancellor Kohl does not [last two words in bold face] agree with the anti-Israeli path to which his foreign minister, Genscher, is pushing him, he rejects it outright. And if Reagan, Cheysson, and Thatcher accept [last word in bold face] their ministers' advice, then the responsibility for this lies primarily with them.

U.S. MAY PROPOSE HOLDING LEBANON TALKS IN EUROPE

TA071307 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Dec 82 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yehuda Litani]

[Text] The U.S. Administration will reexamine its diplomatic activity in Lebanon and the overall peace process when Philip Habib returns to Washington this week in view of the deadlock on these issues and the atmosphere of crisis with Israel. Political elements in Jerusalem have said that the United States is considering proposing to Israel and Lebanon that the negotiations between them be held in a West European country, thus bypassing Israel's demand that the talks be held in the capitals of Israel and Lebanon.

According to these sources, the Americans have concluded that a breakthrough is necessary regarding the venue for the talks, and this is why the aforementioned proposal has been raised.

The same elements have reported that the Lebanese exerted heavy pressure on the Americans to break the deadlock which is why the Americans are now examining several proposals, including one about holding the talks in Europe. It appears the Lebanese are more interested than the Israelis in starting the negotiations in order to create some movement in Lebanon, especially the withdrawal of foreign forces from its territory.

IDF SHOWING 'MASSIVE PRESENCE' IN ASH-SHUF HILLS

TA071318 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Dec 82 p 1

[Report by Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] The IDF continued yesterday to demonstrate a massive presence in the Ash-Shuf hills region, although they refrained from intervening in events there.

Last night, Corporal David Gabay, who was wounded on 4 December in shooting in the area, died of his injuries.

Senior officers hope the difficult weather conditions will cool down the continued fighting. Lebanese Army units and Lebanese civil guard units are in the Ash-Shuf hills area observing events there, but, on orders from superiors, they are not intervening in events.

The DAVAR military correspondent reports that the IDF has set up roadblocks and closed off traffic arteries, including the Damascus-Beirut highway.

DRUZE-PHALANGIST INCIDENT IN 'ALAYH REPORTED

TA071546 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Two Phalangists were killed and three others wounded in 'Alayh as a result of an attack by Druze gunmen on a vehicle in which they were traveling. The IDF blocked off the area and rushed to help the wounded. It is feared that this will cause a new eruption of fighting between the Christians and Druze in the Ash-Shuf area. Our correspondent Li'or Friedman reports from 'Alayh:

[Friedman -- live or recorded] After 2 days of quiet between the Druze and Christians in the 'Alayh area, the region is again stormy. Two Phalangists were killed and three were wounded when their vehicle was attacked in the center of 'Alayh, east of Beirut, a few hours ago. The assumption is that the vehicle was attacked from a passing car. The passengers of the car, apparently a Mercedes, opened fire at the Phalangists' vehicle and escaped.

The wounded were brought to an IDF roadblock near the site of the incident and received medical treatment. In addition, the IDF also concentrated forces in the region and closed off the access roads leading to 'Alayh. There is a strong fear that this incident will entail a series of other incidents. So far, quiet in the region has been maintained, but it was learned that the Phalangists are massing forces. The Phalangists also stepped up the watch at the roadblocks.

A biting cold prevails in the 'Alayh region and some parts are still covered by the snow which fell here the day before yesterday. The snow cooled off spirits indeed, but the cloudless skies today perhaps brought about the renewal of incidents. Quiet is prevailing in the Ash-Shuf mountains area as well. [end recording]

DRUZE PROTEST IDF AID TO LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

TA050525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Text] Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that rallies were held in several Druze villages in the Karmel and Galilee areas last night in order to express indignation over the IDF's intervention on behalf of the Phalangists in the Ash-Shuf mountains fighting. The participants in the rallies claimed that so far, Israel had secretly aided the Christians, while currently it is doing so openly.

COMMISSION EXTENDS RESPONSE FOR WITNESSES

TA071951 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] The national commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre has agreed to postpone by a week the final date on which the nine personages and officers who received warnings should respond to them. The final date was postponed from tomorrow to next Wednesday.

Our correspondent Ehud Klausner reports that the extension was given at the request of most of these personages and officers due to trips abroad or the resort to counsel and the help of attorneys. According to Clause 15 of the Law on Commissions of Inquiry, the nine should announce what measures they intend to adopt: whether they intend to reappear before the commission, to hand it a statement, or to interrogate witnesses.

ALGERIA

ALGERIAN, U.S. COMMERCE OFFICIALS MEET 7 DEC

LD071330 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Algerian Minister of Commerce Abdelaziz Khellef met this morning with U.S. Secretary for Commerce Malcolm Baldrige, who arrived in Algeria yesterday. The two men discussed trade relations and ways of developing them. Earlier, Malcolm Baldrige was received by Algerian Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Belkacem Nabi.

LIBYA

SOVIET MINISTER RYZHOV ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI 7 DEC

LD071854 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] The Soviet deputy foreign minister, Nikita Ryzhov, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

BRIEFS

LIBYAN-POLISH COMMITTEE MEETS -- Tripoli, Safar 19, Dec. 5, Jamahiriyah News Agency -- The meetings of the 4th session of Libyan Arab-Polish Joint Economic and Social Cooperation Committee began here this morning at the Foreign Liaison Bureau to study and review aspects of bilateral cooperation in all fields. The meetings were attended by the General People's Committee's secretary for public utilities, a number of experts and technicians from different secretariats and by Mr. Tadeusz Hupalowski, Poland's minister of economy and environment as well as a number of Polish experts and technicians. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 5 Dec 82 LD]

'L-TALHI MEETS POLISH OFFICIAL -- Tripoli, Safar 19, Dec. 5, Jamahiriyah News Agency -- Mr Jadallah 'Aziz at-Talhi, the secretary of the General People's Committee met this morning with Poland's Minister of Administration, Local Economy and Preservation of Environment General Tadeusz Hupalowski who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah to attend the meetings of the joint Libyan-Polish Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation which began here this morning. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT 5 Dec 82 LD]

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES PHILIP HABIB 6 DECEMBER

LD071408 Rabat MAP in English 1248 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Rabat, Dec 7 (MAP) -- King Hassan II of Morocco received Mr. Philip Habib, U.S. President's special envoy to the Middle East on Monday evening in Rabat.

Attending the meeting were Mr. Ahmed Reda Guedira, [spelling of name as received] adviser to King Hassan II, Mr. Joseph Verner Reed, U.S. ambassador to Morocco and Mr. Ali Ben Jelloun, Moroccan ambassador to the United States.

Afterwards, King Hassan II received Mr. Charles Z. Wick, director of the United States Information Agency (USIA).

Finally, the Moroccan monarch received the members of the Socialist Interafrican headed by Mr. Leopold Sedar Senghor, former Senegalese president and chairman of the Socialist Interafrican.

SUDAN

OFFICIALS SUSPEND SCHOOL CLASSES IN KHARTOUM

EA071910 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Mr Ahmad Shaykh Idris Manna, governor of Khartoum Province, and Dr 'Uthman Sa'id Ahmad, minister of education and guidance, issued a joint statement this evening on the current circumstances surrounding the continuation of studies in schools throughout the capital. Here is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Honorable countrymen, parents, and guardians of students in general education, honorable teachers, our students, sons, and daughters. Blessed greetings from God.

Today, we wish to explain to you the situation in the schools of the capital, when studies were suspended in the first week of November. This resulted from a shortage of petroleum products which greatly affected communications. Due to these circumstances, and being aware of the suffering of our sons, the governor of Khartoum and the under secretary of the ministry suspended studies in all the schools in the capital.

When the communciations situation improved and we ascertained that petroleum products were available, and that (?our sons), the students of the capital had lost 41 days of study out of a scheduled (?200) days to complete the syllabus, the governor directed the capital's communications network, the Military Commission for Communications, and owners of buses and vehicles to [words indistinct] in transporting students to educational institutions.

The governor and the under secretary therefore appealed to teachers and students to return to their classes on Saturday, 4 September. Studies duly resumed on Saturday, but after the [word indistinct] break, students staged a walk-out, interfered with pedestrians and property, threw stones at the schools and attempted to enter schools by force and make those who wanted to study come out into the streets.

It was clear to us, however, that the majority wanted to continue studies to prepare for examinations fixed by the Sudan Examinations Committee for next March and April.

Your view and ours is that there is a minority of students, backed by agitators not of their number, who do not wish to study. This minority has regrettably managed, in the past 3 days, to disrupt studies in some of the capital's schools, leading to chaos, and affecting the security of our countrymen and their property, particularly in the localities of educational establishments.

Following consultations, we have therefore decided to suspend classes in all private and government primary, intermediate, secondary, and community schools throughout the capital, from the morning of Tuesday, 7 December, pending the formulation of regulations by teachers, parents councils, guardians, and countrymen, to ensure stability in schools. God grants success.

Peace, God's mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Ahmad Shaykh Idris Manna, governor of Khartoum; Dr 'Uthman Sa'id Ahmad Isma'il, minister of education and guidance, 6 December, 1982

KENYA

GUNMEN WOUND 2 INDIAN DIPLOMATS IN UGANDA

EA071550 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Unidentified gunmen today shot and wounded two employees of the Indian High Commission in Kampala as they left their car in front of the commission's offices this morning. A spokesman for the Indian High Commission in Uganda said the wounded persons were Indian nationals employed at the high commission. Witnesses said at least two gunmen approached the High Commission's car as it stopped at the entrance and opened fire with automatic weapons, spraying the car with bullets. The two were taken to hospital for emergency surgery.

The police gave no motive for the attack and refused to speculate on the identity of the gunmen, who escaped in another car parked nearby. A government statement on the incident was expected later today.

TANZANIA

CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL TALKS

Meets With Nyerere

EA051504 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1300 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Text] Dar es Salaam -- President Nyerere today held talks in Dar es Salaam with the Cuban vice president, Ndugu Juan Almeida Bosque. According to a presidential spokesman, the talks centered on relations between Tanzania and Cuba and the Nonaligned Movement. The Cuban vice president also delivered a message to Mwalimu from Cuban President Fidel Castro, who is the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. The spokesman said, however, contents of the message were not disclosed. The Cuban vice president, who arrived in Dar es Salaam yesterday for a 3-day official visit, this morning also held talks with the prime minister, Ndugu Cleopa Msuya.

Meanwhile, Ndugu Almeida Bosque was expected to arrive at the Mikumi National Park in Morogoro region for game viewing and tonight will be guest of honor at a dinner hosted by the Morogoro regional commissioner, Ndugu (Anne Abdalla). According to official program issued in Dar es Salaam, a joint communique is expected to be signed tomorrow before the Cuban vice president leaves the country later in the day.

Report on Communique

EA072010 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1800 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Cuba and Tanzania have emphasized the importance of the role played by the OAU in supporting the African people's struggle and its contribution to strengthening the actions of African countries against colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, and apartheid.

In a communique issued at the end of an official visit in Dar es Salaam by the Cuban vice president, Juan Almeida Bosque, the two countries expressed confidence that African countries would endeavor to strengthen the organization, promoting unity and cohesion amdong its members. The Cuban side paid special tribute to the frontline states for their sacrifices in support of the total liberation of southern Africa and expressed admiration over Tanzania's support to the liberation struggle in southern Africa. Both sides noted with concern the obstruction of Namibian independence by the intransigence and persistent refusal of the racist regime of South Africa to comply with resolutions of the United Nations.

Meets With Jumbe

EA041914 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Zanzibar -- Tanzania and Cuba have agreed to further cooperation between them. Agreement on this was reached today at a 1-hour meeting between the Vice President of Tanzania, Ndugu Aboud Jumbe, and the vice president of Cuba, Ndugu Juan Almeida Bosque, at State House, Zanzibar city. The meeting was also attended by many officials of the two governments.

Ndugu Almeida, who is on a 3-day visit to Tanzania, arrived on the island this afternoon for a 1-day visit. On arrival at the airport, he was received by his host, Vice President Nudgu Aboud Jumbe, various party and government leaders, hundreds of citizens, and a guard of honor. He was given a 19-gun salute and introduced to various party and government officials and foreign diplomats stationed in Zanzibar as well as being entertained by traditional dancers.

This evening the Cuban vice president is scheduled to attend a state banquet held in his honor by Ndugu Jumbe and later attend a ballet performance at Marghubi.

KAUNDA ON ZAMBIA-ZAIRE BORDER DISPUTE RESOLUTION

EA041921 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Dar es Salaam -- A permanent organization to resolve the Zambia-Zaire border crisis will be launched in Lubumbashi, Zaire, next month. President Kaunda of Zambia told reporters at the State House, in Dar es Salaam, that the decision to establish the organization was raised between the two countries following past border clashes involving the armed forces of the two countries following past border clashes involving the armed forces of the two countries. He could not elaborate on the mechanism of the new institution, but he was optimistic that once it was established, the border problem would be solved.

The organization will be charged with the task of maintaining peace and order along the border of the two countries. The Zambian leader also accused racist South Africa of training dissidents from neighboring states who later infiltrated their countries of origin to carry out terrorism and other sabotage activities.

UGANDA

ONE WOUNDED IN INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION ATTACK

AB071628 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Kampala, Dec. 7 (AFP) -- Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a group of people outside the Indian High Commission in central Kampala early today, wounding at least one person.

First reports that an Indian diplomat based in the Ugandan capital had been killed in the attack were denied by a member of his family. The high commission offices were closed immediately after the shooting, and telephones remained unanswered.

The injured man was later reported to be recovering from a successful operation for his wounds.

It was not known whether the incident was an abortive attempt to steal the diplomat's car, which was hit by bullets, or a deliberate attack on a member of the Indian High Commission.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU OPENS THIRD MPR CONGRESS IN KINSHASA

AB071330 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] The third ordinary congress of the MPR began at 1000 in Great Congress Hall of the People's Palace before a large crowd estimated at 4,000. Mobutu Sese Seko, the MPR founding chairman and president of the republic, made the opening address at this summit [as heard] meeting. It was a long
a lashing address that examined 5 years of Zairian political and economic life and which threw the first beams of light on the coming 5 years. At any rate, it was transmitted live from the People's Palace. [Names indistinct] are not in contact to give the contents of this address.

However, the founding chairman touched on all aspects. For example, he spoke about the efforts made during the past 5 years for the integration of Zairian women into the life of the nation in all fields. In this regard, he said that the situation of women has improved.

In the same context, the MPR founding chairman touched on the situation of the civil servant, stating that the situation of the civil servant must be improved, especially his material condition. President Mobutu also advocated a just distribution of the state's budget. That is all for national issues.

Naturally, the head of state also talked about international issues. On this issue, he touched on Zaire's devotion to African and world issues -- two important factors in Zaire's foreign policy, he said. He then enumerated its fundamental principles, some of which are neighborliness and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. On this issue, he emphasized that Zaire will do everything possible to contribute to the liberation struggles of oppressed African peoples.

It is also worth noting that the founding chariman was very critical of the past 5 years. He therefore regretted that some resolutions of the previous congress, that is to say the second ordinary congress of the MPR, have still not yet been approved [words indistinct] their implementation. To this effect, he gave the reasons for this state of affairs before giving the guidelines to be adopted by the congress in order to ensure better efficiency.

At any rate, the time has been set for 1800 and not 1600 for the television reading of the messages of the delegates to this congress -- not only regional delegates, but also those from brotherly and friendly countries who have made it a point to attend this third ordinary congress of the party.

BRIEFS

ANGOLAN CONSULATE IN LUBUMBASHI -- The People's Republic of Angola's ambassador to Zaire, Kamu de Almeida, visited Lubumbashi recently to assist in the opening of the Angolan Consulate General in the city. The ambassador also presented the first and second secretaries of the consulate to the vice governor general of the province. The primary task of the consulate will be to take a census of all Angolan citizens living in the province, pointed out the ambassador to the local press. [Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 3 Dec 82 AB]

GUINEA-BISSAU

PORTUGAL'S PRESIDENT EANES PROMISES AID

LD060253 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 0000 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] At the end of his visit to Guinea-Bissau, President Ramalho Eanes has stated that he rejects the notion of a Portuguese community as advocated in certain quarters several years ago.

At President Ramalho Eanes' behest, Admiral Souto Cruz had talks with Guinea-Bissau President Vieira on Guinea-Bissau's need for protection of its exclusive economic zone. The possibility was raised of Portugal providing warships and aircraft to patrol the zone. In this connection, Adm Souto Cruz told the ANOP reporter that under the new law of national defense, any decision on this matter rests with the defense minister.

For the rest of the day's events in Guinea-Bissau, here is a report from our correspondent covering President Eanes' visit, Ismenia Abreau:

There has been much talk of cooperation here this afternoon. First at the talks between delegations of the two countries and afterwards at a news conference to give the press a general picture of the resuts of Ramalho Eanes' visit.

First and foremost has emerged the certainty that in matters of economic cooperation one must begin at the beginning. This means that, aware of the realities of Guinea-Bissau, the best way of cooperating in its development is to help the authorities establish goals and define priorities. Everything -- or nearly everything -- is yet to be done. But first plans must be made, and it is with regard to planning that Portugal today pledged to make a contribution. A protocol to be signed tomorrow establishes the general bases for this contribution. Protugal undertakes, on the one hand, to collaborate in planning the economic development of Guinea-Bissau and, on the other, to support in the international financial organizations the plans submitted by the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

The Bissau authorities recognize that only planning can prevent a repetition of past errors, by which I mean the establishment of plants and infrastructures totally incompatible with the country's capabilities. Such is the case, for example, of a sophisticated seed treatment plant that is at a standstill due to lack of trained personnel, and of shipyards lying idle because there is no copper wire coil for the electrical equipment.

At any rate, the political will to cooperate is there, and includes all the Portuguese-speaking countires. It stems from what has become known as the spirit of Bissau which is characterized by the unprejudiced acknowledgement of a shared history and of the need, on the basis of this common past, to build a present of cooperation in order to find ways to achieve progress among the respective peoples. It is on this basis that Eanes has submitted a proposal for our country's participation in summit meetings with Portuguese-speaking African countries:

[Begin Eanes recording] Portugal is prepared to go much further. The possibility might even be envisaged of its participation -- when requested by the Portuguese-speaking African states -- in summit meetings of heads of government and of state, or other meetings in which these states take part, in order to discuss specific matters, be they industry, trade or anything else.

I am saying this to emphasize the openness of Portugal's willingness to cooperate.

Portugal has no complexes or prejudices and believes that five centuries of African experience in a total of eight centuries as an independent country cannot be forgotten and must not be forgotten, for the sake of Portugal and of the nations where Portugal has spent these five centuries. [end recording]

His visit to Guinea-Bissau concluded, Ramalho Eanes will be leaving for Algeria later today in what is, in fact, the first visit by a Portuguese president to the former French colony.

We have a report from an Algerian news agency quoting Eanes on his intentions concerning the political situation in Portugal. The report says that General Eanes is waiting for the outcome of local elections to decide whether or not to dismiss the government.

IVORY COAST

PRESIDENT'S INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE TO NATION 6 DEC

AB070957 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 6 Dec 82

[President Felix Houphouet-Boigny's message to the nation on the eve of the 22d independence anniversary on 6 December -- live]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen and women: For the second time we are going to celebrate our independence anniversary in an atmosphere of international political and economic crisis that will not permit us to give it all the desired splendor and, in particular, provide a town in the interior with the means of embellishment and equipment that we so happily provided in the past. The austerity imposed on us by the circumstances we are bearing and will continue to bear if necessary without any vain recrimination should not in any way cast a shadow on our deep satisfaction at having been able -- both in times of prosperity and of relative scarcity -- to maintain our country in unity, discipline and hard work and to win new friends without compromising our free choice in any way. Our country is listened to and respected far beyond what its modest dimensions would justify. All these consoling established facts cannot, however, hide from us the gravity of a situation which the 1982 UNCTAD report describes as the greatest economic crisis since the great depression of 1930.

The political field, which the UNCTAD is not qualified to mention, does not offer a more encouraging prospect. This is not surprising since the interaction of these various problems is so obvious. The persistence of the antagonism of the superpowers with all its ensuing effects largely contributes to the mainteance of hotbeds in the world. Several experts are striving to diagnose the causes of the inflation, the weakness of investments and the slowing down of economic activities coupled with unemployment and general morosity. The superpowers devote a negligble part of their budgets to Third World countries, while staggering sums of money are spent in the most fruitless activity of mass production of war materials which are becoming increasingly sophisticated and consequently more expensive. Worse of all this already dramatically insufficient aid must be used for the reconstruction of towns and villages destroyed by these very arms.

It is true that there exist men of goodwill who have been trying to see to it that these repeated crises do not lead the world to either a brutal nuclear catastrophe or a slow suffocation through hunger and misery. We are aware, however, that voices are being raised more and more to denounce the injustices and propose a reasonable and fruitful modification of the structures and mentalities which are leading us to the brink of disaster.

It is obvious that the Ivory Coast must find in itself most of the means to continue with its development and ensure at the same time a worthy and serene life for all. Our line of conduct is simple: safeguard our capital and make it multiply as much as possible by ensuring both the life and growth of the state and the satisfaction of the legitimate needs of the Ivorian people. Although the principle is easy to define, its implementation is obviously more difficult. The whole secret of life is to transform a handicap into an advantage, wrote Aime Cesaire. The crisis we are deploring has had as a consequence the complete disclosure of our imperfections, shortcomings and errors. It has also compelled us to review some of our options and made us aware of the precariousness of a seemingly stable situation. Let us listen to Cesaire and learn the necessary lessons while there is still time. Moreover, we are not starting from scratch in our desire to make the necessary changes. We have already examined our consciences. The seventh congress of our party prepared a balance sheet and indicated the desirable orientations.

I will not repeat what was said and written at that seventh congress and which every Ivorian who is conscious of his civic duties should know and meditate upon. Our determination to stand fast in the years ahead in the face of the difficult situation we are experiencing and which demands austerity, solidarity and strictness must help us to endure the crisis. We therefore ask the necessary sacrifices from the entire nation. It is not at all in our interest to compel a single socioeconomic group to bear the weight of these sacrifices as some people would like us to do. Everyone would agree with us that in this effort of national solidarity, it would be fair to demand more from those who benefitted more from the solicitude of the state. We will discuss this problem during the forthcoming meeting of the National Council. Besides, we must maintain this line of conduct when we emerge from the crisis because there is no guarantee we will not face other crisis in the future, crises which the most competent forecasters of the future would find it very difficult to predict.

The reforms we have undertaken and which we will pursue as much as possible and the problems which we are experiencing and which we must solve personally must not lead us to adopt a short-sighted policy and to neglect the international environment. In any case, we are greatly affected by the consequences of the upheavals in the world. I have on several occasions emphasized my great concern with regard to the unending hotbeds of tension and conflicts in Africa and the world. No noticeable change has occurred which could strenthen our hopes.

Today, I would like to emphasize a danger which is certainly not new but which recently took a particularly serious turn. I mean the risk of disintegration of the OAU. By creating the OAU, we, the founding members, threw a challenge to the world. In fact, there is no organization of this dimension on a continental scale. We were not unaware of the magnitude of the difficulties to be overcome. A group of states so diverse in population, resources and ideologies bears in itself seeds of tension and dislocation that only a political will characterized by conciliation and respect for the initial objectives and basic principles can overcome. In defiance of the charter, conflicts of representation and participation in the summit conferences are aggravated to the detriment of key problems.

Being a member of the now very reduced group of founders of the OAU and fully aware of all the passionate controversies for which the organization has been a theater, I think it would be a very great pity for Africa if the work of 2 decades disappeared for a long time.

We disagree on two points: the admission of the SDAR to the OAU and Chad's participation in the 19th summit conference. Concerning the first point, some of my friends and myself cannot accept in 1982 what we rejected 20 years ago and which delayed the creation of the OAU. Our position on the second point comes from the steadfastness of our policy. It is not possible for us to consider the SDAR as an independent and sovereign state since it has no control over any territory. We consider it on the same scale as the PLO which is recognized by several countries in the world. In spite of this, it is evident that as long as 'Arafat is not the head of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state, the PLO will not be admitted into the United Nations. It is the principle of admission of states into the United Nations that we adopted at the time of the creation of the OAU. Our refusal is therefore a position of principle.

We are in favor of the referendum proposed by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco in Nairobi for the self-determination of Western Sahara. A commission for the implementation of this resolution which was adopted unanimously by the member states was created. All OAU member states interested in peace with each other must facilitate the work of this commission in order to organize this referendum. Whatever the difficulties in organizing this referendum, if we tackle it with faith and honesty the people of Western Sahara will be able to freely determine their own fate and we must all accept the desire of the people, whatever the outcome of the consultation.

Now, let us come to the second point of the disagreement; it concerns the need to respect our organization's charter, one of the basic principles of which is noninterference in the affairs of member states.

The OAU recognizes states and not people. People come and go, but states remain. When Goukouni Oueddei -- at the head of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad -- was in Ndjamena, we all recognized him as the head of state of Chad. In this capacity, he fully participated with us in the summit conference of the heads of state of France and Africa in Paris. We have just sat with Hissein Habre in Kinshasa in his capacity as the head of the Government of Chad. His representative sits at the United Nations in the same capacity as the representatives of all the independent and sovereign states of the world. This principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of states must be rigorously respected, otherwise the door will be opened to all adventures and the OAU will disintegrate. The situation is very serious. We must examine it with all seriousness.

I abhor [word indistinct]. Some unpleasant things were said in Tripoli. Al-Qadhdhafi considers the fact that the leaders of independent African states -- Francophone, Anglophone, Lusophone and Hispanic -- met in Kinshasa with French leaders to be a remnant of colonial dependence. Why does the same Al-Qadhdhafi not consider it a remnant of colonialism that the leaders of the former British colonies of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and [North] America meet with British officials within the framework of the Commonwealth? Relations among OAU member states must be based on the principles of mutual respect for the dignity of each member state. The minimum courtesy of the man who is awaiting the arrival of the colleagues he has invited to meet in the capital of his country is to scrupulously respect this principle. We are not being subjected to any pressure and we always make our decisions with concern only for the unity of our continent. We shall never sacrifice our dignity for anything or anybody. We are independent with regard to everybody.

My dear countrymen, it was in your name that I took this position concerning local differences among the members of our organization. The Ivory Coast has no enemy and does not want to have any. We respect the choice of others whatever they may be. The Entente Council is there to justify this assertion. Four of our partners in the Entente Council have changed their regimes; one of them professes a Marxist-Leninist ideology, but this does not prevent the members of our Entente Council from further strengthening each day our bonds of effective cooperation and solidarity established more than 20 years ago. Within the Entente Council, we believe that the common priority objective of all the African leaders is development and it is the only thing that matters. If we want the harmonious future well-being of Africa and the peace and solidarity of all its children, this is the time to remember that we have always been present at all meetings where solidarity and unity were discussed -- the African Democratic Rally, the Entente Council, the Brazzaville Group, the Monrovia Group, the OAU, the OCAM, Air Afrique, the West African Monetary Union, the West African Economic Community, the nonaggression and defense aid agreement, and ECOWAS.

Among ourselves, as Ivorians, we must cultivate love -- fraternal love -- and hate hatred. Despite the sudden fall in our import revenue -- which could have given birth to a storm of discontent and revolt in other countries -- we must continue with faith and determination the harmonious construction of the Ivory Coast in an atmosphere of peace, justice, solidarity and fraternity.

Long live the Ivory Coast!

UPPER VOLTA

OUEDRAOGO SENDS MESSAGE TO IVORIAN PRESIDENT

AB071536 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Head of State Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo's message of congratulations to Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on the National Day anniversary on 7 December recorded]

[Text] The celebration of the National Day anniversary in your country gives me the pleasant opportunity to address to you, Your Excellency, on behalf of the people of Upper Volta, its People's Salvation Council, and on my own behalf, my hearty congratulations. I am convinced that the traditional relations of friendship, fraternity and cooperation linking our two peoples will be more strengthened and that through dialogue and understanding we will be able to promote the harmonious development of our states in a spirit of interdependence imposed on us by history and nature. Kindly accept, Your Excellency, the expression of our ardent wishes for your health and happiness in the execution of your cumbersome responsibilities and for the prosperity of the Ivorian people.

Highest regards.

[Signed] Dr Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, chairman of the People's Salvation Council and head of state of Upper Volta

ANGOLA

SECRETARY OF STATE LEAVES FOR MEETING IN CUBA

AB031830 Luanda ANGOP in French 1620 GMT 3 Dec 82

[Text] Luanda, 3 Dec (ANGOP) -- Paulino Pinto Joao, the Angolan secretary of state for cooperation, left Luanda on Thursday for Cuba where he will participate in the Angola-Cuba joint subcommission economic meeting.

Speaking to the Angolan press before his departure, Paulino Pinto Joao stated that deliberations at this joint subcommission meeting will essentially be devoted to the examination of economic projects relating to agriculture and industry and to the drawing up of the program of activities to be undertaken during next year.

Furthermore, he added, this meeting will set for itself the goal of reviewing the activities undertaken by Angola and Cuba during the current year within the framework of economic cooperation between them. Concerning next year's working plans, the Angolan secretary of state for cooperation indicated that the meeting will also talk about the sugar industry in Angola.

MOZAMBIQUE

RSA MILITARY INCURSION INTO STATE FARM REPULSED

AB080805 Paris AFP in English 0752 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] Maputo, Mozambique, Dec. 8 (AFP) -- A South African military force last Monday attacked a state farm nine km (five miles) inside Mozambique, wounding 16 people and destroying three tractors, the Mozambican News Agency reported here today.

The report said the attack took place in the Napulangwene district of Maputo Province, 170 km (105 miles) northwest of the capital.

It said: "the response by Mozambican border guard, supported by local militia units, forced the enemy to withdraw."

The attack follows an exchange of accusations by the Mozambican and South African Governments concerning military activity along the border.

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha said last Friday that South African forces would undertake "follow-up operations, with resulting serious implications for the people of the region," if nationalist guerrillas continued to cross the border from Mozmabique into South Africa.

The Napulangwene area, between the Incomati and Limpopo Rivers has been the scene of several attacks by South African-backed Mozambican anti-government rebels, who have staged attacks on villages, shops and transport links in several parts of Mozambique.

SOUTH AFRICA

TALKS REPORTEDLY TO BE HELD WITH ANGOLA

MB080807 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] Official sources in Cape Verde say South African and Angolan officials are to attend a meeting shortly in the Cape Verde capital of Praia, in efforts to speed up the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia. They said the meeting had been arranged by President Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde.

The officials said that the Angolan minister of the interior, Lieutenant General Alexandre Rodrigues, was already in Praia. There has been no immediate confirmation in Pretoria of the meeting, which could be the first of its kind between South Africa and Angola since Angolan independence. Both countries took part in an international conference on South-West Africa/Namibia, which collapsed in Geneva in January 1981. South Africa has insisted on the withdrawal from Angola of some 20,000 Cuban troops before the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia.

No Confirmation of Talks

MB080930 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] So far there has been no official confirmation from government circles of the Reuter report that Angolan and South African officials are holding talks on South-West Africa in the Cape Verde Islands. In response to a query, a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information confirmed in Pretoria that the minister, Mr. Pik Botha, was out of town. However, he declined any further comment.

Meanwhile, news agencies report that official delegations from South Africa and Angola were to have begun talks in Praia, the capital of Cape Verde Islands, about 2 hours ago. The talks will be the first direct contact between the two countries over Namibia, although both took part in the unsuccessful Geneva Conference on Namibia in January last year.

DEFENSE FORCE DENIES MOZAMBIQUE INCURSION CLAIMS

MB081206 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] A Defense Force spokesman has said in Pretoria that Mozambique's latest propaganda campaign about alleged South African incursions into Mozambique is just as ludicrous as all the other statements issued in the past by what he called the Marxist-controlled propaganda machine in Mozambique. He says that the allegations that are made are not worth commenting on.

Earlier, the official Mozambique News Agency reported from Maputo that South Africa soldiers had invaded Mozambique on Monday and had wounded 16 people before being forced to retreat. The report said that the South African forces had penetrated 9 km into the province of Maputo in southwest Mozambique and that they had reached a cattle farm at Napulangwene. The news agency also claimed that three tractors had been destroyed.

ZAMBIA

ANGOLAN PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS SPEAKS IN LUSAKA

EA071828 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Address by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, at the opening of talks with Zambian President Kenneth D. Kaunda on 7 December in Lusaka -- recorded]

[Excerpts] We were highly impressed with the slogans and the songs that were sung and were dedicated to our delegation, our party and our people who are waging a difficult struggle to defend their security, their sovereignty, and their national independence. The meetings by the heads of state of Angola and Zambia are extremely useful for they allow exchanges of views and discussion of problems of common interest for the defense of our states, for the defense of our revolutions, and for the development of our countries.

We consider these regular and periodic consultations also as a way to strengthen friendship between the people of Angola and Zambia. They allow us to strengthen the ties of friendship and solidarity between UNIP and the MPLA-Labor Party. They allow us to strengthen the economic, technical, scientific, and cultural cooperation between our countries and governments.

I fully agree with every word expressed by the comrade president, Kenneth Kaunda. In fact, we are in a very sensitive zone of the African Continent, where a life and death battle is being waged between progressive forces and those of the reaction, between those who want real and genuine independence for our peoples and the forces who want submission to the domination by international capitalism -- the forces of imperialism.

We are waging this struggle with pride because we are Africans and we want to be worthy of that name. We wage this struggle with pride becasue we categorically reject all the intentions of the enemies of Africa and the forces which have already colonized our continent and our peoples. These are forces which have lost many positions and which today are trying subtle means to penetrate once again and recover the positions they have lost.

There are still forces which act in collusion with imperialism. These unfortunately are people who come from our midst. If imperialism did not have these representatives, these individuals, through whom it penetrates our organizations, our countries and the ranks of our people, it would have desisted a long time ago from destabilizing our economies and communities.

To be specific, we learned with a lot of satisfaction the report of yet another victory won by the people of Zambia and UNIP when it annihilated one of these traitors, the head of a gang which for a long time has been disturbing order and stability in certain areas of Zambia. Reports we read in the press said that Mushala had been annihilated. We thought that was a victory of the whole Zambian people who want peace and true independence, and (?of those) who are behind UNIP and the comrade president, Kenneth Kaunda. We also hold this victory to be our victory, for we are in solidarity with UNIP and the Zambian people.

In Angola too there are individuals like Mushala who have already betrayed their fatherland. They are in the hands of imperialism and South African racists. Therefore, they are trying to implement the policy of those forces in our country by creating instability, by attacking the civilian population, destroying the property of our people, and destroying our economic targets in order to retard our national reconstruction process and create confusion and misunderstanding among Angolans so that the enemy may very easily achieve their aims. I am here referring to UNITA which continued to benefit from massive support from the South African racist regime in order to destabilize Angola in conjunction with units of the Regular Army of South Africa.

It is, as the comrade president, Kenneth Kaunda, said, a battle. It is a difficult struggle and we are glad to take note of that same old solidarity demonstrated by President Kaunda and UNIP toward the Angolan people in their struggle for complete independence and the defense of their territorial integrity and sovereignty.

We shall, of course, continue to make efforts to develop our solidarity. The categorical rejection by President Kaunda and the Zambian Government of the attempts to link the independence of Namibia with the presence of Cuban internationalist forces in Angola is yet another unequivocal manifestation of solidarity with the Angolan people and the MPLA-Labor Party. We express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude for that.

Within the framework of the frontline states, we can say that Angola will continue to be loyal to the cause of the total liberation of the continent. It will be loyal to the mandate that has been given us by the OAU to pursue the problem of Namibia's independence by supporting the heroic struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO and President Sam Nujoma and the struggle of the South African people led by the ANC for the recovery of democratic liberty for a life in peace and social justice of the South African people.

Our stay will be brief. I think that all the problems I mentioned and others relating to the difficult international situation facing today's world, as well as the problems relating to the development of our activity within the Southern African Development and Cooperation Commission regarding regional economic, social, and independent development, will merit special attention in the talks we are about to have with President Kaunda. We are sure that, though brief, this visit will have positive results and will serve to strengthen still further our bilateral cooperation, our consultations and, of course, our personal friendship and the friendship between the Angolan and Zambian peoples. Thank you very much. [applause]

ZIMBABWE

IAN SMITH REPORTEDLY MET BRITAIN'S THATCHER

MB071350 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Former Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith held a secret meeting with British Conservative politicians in London last month. It has been confirmed that Smith met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Now, two London newspapers have reported Smith also met with the Conservative Party's back bench Foreign Affairs Committee. Reports say Smith strongly criticized Robert Mugabwe's government, and accused the British high commissioner in Harare of failing to report the situation accurately.

Former Rhodesian cabinet minister, P.K. Van Der Byl, who accompanied Smith, has warned Smith's life could be in danger if details of the secret meeting became known. Smith had his passport removed after he allegedly criticized Mugabe's government in an interview with a Washington newspaper.

Smith Still Free

MB071244 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The former Rhodesian prime minister, Mr Ian Smith, says as far as he knows, he is still a free man. Yesterday, the police searched his suburban home near Harare for 2 and 1/2 hours. He told newsmen that he was not sure if further action against him is planned. He said as far as he was aware, he was not under any restriction, and plans to return to his farm today. He said the police have again taken several of his personal documents and diaries going back to the time when he was prime minister of Rhodesia. Mr Smith said he could not say if he were heading for a confrontation with the Mugabe government. He said it was difficult to answer that question because the Mugabe government seemed to be immune to reason and fair play.

In the meantime, Zimbabwean Government spokesman said in Harare that if police found anything warranting the detention of Mr Smith, the law would take its course. Mr Smith's Republican Front party has put lawyers on the alert in case he was detained.